



COUPLE'S WEDDING DREAM IS DASHED

Report by Sue Austin

A COUPLE have lost their life savings after the hotel they were due to marry at ran into financial trouble.

Vicki Manford and Paul Mitchell handed over £2,000 cash for the day of their dreams just 10 days before administrators moved in.

Now they have been left desperately trying to find another venue before their big day in October.

The Wild Pheasant Hotel in Llangollen closed suddenly amid safety concerns. The adjoining spa business is separate and has remained open.

The lunchtime closure left staff without jobs, guests without a bed for the night and those planning weddings and events in the lurch.

Vicki and Paul, from Chirk, were on a camping holiday with their young children when the hotel closed last Wednesday.

Vicki said: "I was in denial at first and just assumed that everything would be sorted out."

"It wasn't until we got home and spoke to the administrators that we realised that we had lost everything, the money and the wedding of my dreams."

"I love the Wild Pheasant. We celebrate all our special occasions there."

"Just a couple of days after we had paid the money we went back for my birthday. There was absolutely no indication that anything was wrong."

Vicki, 37, who has six children, said the hotel would have been ideal.

She said: "Because of the children we wanted somewhere that would cater for all of us and where we could have the ceremony and the celebrations in the same place."

"It would have been perfect for the younger children and I was looking forward to enjoying the spa before the ceremony with the older ones."

She said the couple had always talked about the Wild Pheasant for their wedding.

"I feel like I have been cheated out of my big day."

The couple are now trying to find an alternative venue.

Earlier in the summer the Wild Pheasant was put on the market with a £2.25 million price tag. A spokeswoman for administrators, Duff & Phelps said: "Steve Munceaster and Sarah Bell, Managing Directors of Duff & Phelps, were appointed joint administrators of O&S Hotels Ltd, which trades as The Wild Pheasant Hotel in Llangollen, North Wales."

"The hotel was closed due to health and safety concerns and all existing bookings will be cancelled. With the closure of the hotel, all employees were made redundant with immediate effect."

Thousands sign petition over future of health care



Oswestry mayor Paul Milner hands over the 4,000-name petition over to Julian Povey, chair of Shropshire CCG, to save the Shrewsbury A&E

A PETITION of more than 4,000 names calling for a new emergency care centre to be based in Shrewsbury has been handed over to health chiefs.

Councillor Paul Milner, the mayor of Oswestry, took the signatures to a meeting of the Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group at Shirehall yesterday (Wednesday).

He fears that people living in the Oswestry area, including outlying villages, could be put at risk if the proposed emergency centre is in Telford.

Councillor Milner had already written to CCG leader David Evans putting forward his views on why what he described as a new, super A&E should be in Shrewsbury and not Telford. The National Health Service's Future

Fit consultation says that Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust cannot sustain two A&E departments.

It is consulting over its plans for one regional emergency care centre which would be able to offer more specialist care than can currently be accessed at either Shrewsbury or Telford, with urgent care centres created in three or four areas.

Signatures for the petition have come from the town of Oswestry and further afield, including more isolated areas such as Rhydycroesau.

The mayor said: "Telford is already served by Shropshire and emergency services in Wolverhampton and Stoke."

"However, if facilities were removed from

Shrewsbury, the distance from some parts of north Shropshire to a site in Telford could be up to two hours. Clearly this is unacceptable and places patients at significant and unacceptable risk."

"If facilities move from Shrewsbury then there are also the problems of public transport and the limitations and costs that apply for any patient who does not have the benefit of their own transport."

He said that the CCG must also be mindful of the projected growth of Oswestry and its surrounds with an increase of some 2,200 houses predicted over the next few years.

The petition said if the decision is to site the new centre in Telford, then Oswestry must have its own urgent care centre.

BINS

Fears raised after rats are spotted in town car park

RATS have been spotted in a town car park, sparking health fears and dismay at the impression it gives visitors.

Robert Robinson, clerk of Welshpool Town Council, spoke of his concerns about the high number of rats taking up residence at the town's Berriew Street car park.

He said: "This isn't a couple I'm talking about, after being told about the problem I went to inspect the car park and within seconds I'd seen at least half a dozen of them. This isn't what people want to see, it doesn't give visitors a good impression of the town."

Mr Robinson said he believed the problem was mainly because of people misusing the recycling bins at the car park.

"Many people are leaving sacks there with food in, which they shouldn't be," he said.

Mr Robinson said the town council is now pressing Powys County Council for the recycling bins to be removed from the site.

Councillor John Powell, cabinet member for environment and sustainability, said: "The council is aware of this issue of rats at Berriew Street car park. We have contacted Welshpool Town Council about the possibility of removing the banks as there are alternative provisions nearby and it would reduce waste dumped at this location as unfortunately these recycling centres do attract fly-tipping."

BYPASS

Call for A5 safety improvements

A PETITION has been launched calling for safety improvements on an accident black-spot.

The latest accident on the A5/A483 Chirk bypass happened on Sunday when a female passenger was left with life-changing injuries after a crash between a car and a motorcycle. Now campaigners want to see overtaking restrictions and an average speed camera system introduced between the Gledrid roundabout and the Halton roundabout.

The UK Government and Parliament petition was set up by Jonathan Brigstock from Chirk.

INSIDE

Oswestry Show is a huge hit



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Prince Charles's link to eisteddfod to continue

Report by Sue Austin

THE Prince of Wales has agreed to remain as patron of the Llan-gollen International Musical Eisteddfod which will celebrate its 70th birthday next year.

It continues a long relationship between The Prince of Wales and the festival which he has visited three times – most recently last year, alongside The Duchess of Cornwall.

Last year Prince Charles was coaxed into dancing with members of a Punjabi bhangra group from Nottingham, the Sheerer Punjabi dancers, as he waved off the traditional Parade of Nations.

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by Diana, Princess of Wales first attended the Eisteddfod in 1985 and he returned in 2006, with the Duchess of Cornwall. The festival, founded in 1947 to promote international peace and harmony, is no stranger to Royal visits.

In 1953 it was one of the first of the newly-crowned Queen Elizabeth's official engagements after she succeeded her father, George VI, and she also returned, in 1992 to open the Royal International Pavilion while other Royal visitors have been Princess Margaret and the Princess Royal.

Dr Rhys Davies, event chairman, said: "Naturally we are delighted that the Prince is to remain as patron of this wonderful event and we hope he will do so for many years to come."

"It maintains our royal connection and is excellent news after a very successful 70th Eisteddfod which saw higher visitor numbers, three sell-out concerts, an increase in overseas groups and a sunnier financial outlook."

"We're on course to at least break even which gives us a much brighter financial outlook as we head towards our 70th anniversary in 2017."

The decision to move the Parade of Nations to Friday from the opening day was vindicated by hugely increased numbers of competitors taking part and 7,000 on the streets, including 1,000 in the parade.

Dr Davies added: "The Carmen evening concert was absolutely splendid and Bryn Terfel and Joseph Calleja on Thursday night were also truly memorable while it was a pleasure to see one of my personal favourites, Jools Holland, returning to the Eisteddfod stage for a brilliant Sunday concert."

Amy's limbering up for treadmill challenge



World record marathon runner Amy Hughes from West Felton near Oswestry is preparing for another running challenge

MARATHON world record holder, Amy Hughes has set herself another challenge – this time solely on a treadmill.

The Shropshire runner, originally from West Felton near Oswestry, is aiming to beat the world record for the most miles run on a treadmill in seven days – which currently stands at 517 miles.

She is hoping to cover 530 miles, without moving from the machine.

It will mean that Amy will have to run three marathons every day for seven days.

She has not revealed when her challenge will begin but Amy says she will complete the challenge in Manchester, where she now works.

She said: "It is going to be a really hard challenge. I am not a treadmill runner so it will be tough mentally as well as physically."

The 28-year-old will be raising funds for her charity, The 53 Foundation, which helps to promote sport.

In 2014 the athlete shot to national

prominence when she ran 53 marathons in 53 days to set a world record, at the same time raising £53,000 for the Isabelle Lottie Foundation, which supports the families of children with or recovering from brain tumours.

She was also nominated for a Pride of Britain award for her efforts.

Details of her latest world record attempt will be posted on her social media accounts and on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q64bg8aBnx8>.

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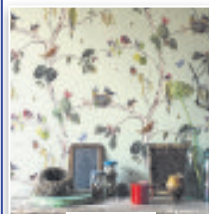
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Photography competition is launched

THIS year's categories in the 10th Llanfyllin Photography Competition have been announced and enthusiasts are being urged to get snapping.

Llanfyllin Civic Society and Arts Connection are inviting everyone to take part in the competition, which is sponsored by DG Mills Ltd.

People of all ages and abilities can take part and submissions will be judged in adult and under 16 categories with cash prizes for winning entries. Organisers say the event is a non-professional competition which is about involving the community to capture Llanfyllin and surrounding area through the lens, and share its images and stories. Nina Welhing from Arts Connection said: "This year's categories are old, water and close-up and photographers are urged to interpret creatively. Images must be taken within Llanfyllin or its broad surrounding area. Deadline for submissions is November 4, by post or delivery to Arts Connection, Youth & Community Centre, Llanfyllin, SY22 5DR. Prizes will be awarded on November 18 at 7pm at the Cain Valley Hotel followed by a feature length show of "Oscar Nominated Short Films 2016" at the Old New Inn pub at 8pm in partnership with Llanfyllin Film.

"For more information visit <http://ffilmic.co.uk/photography> or call (01691) 648929."

Cycle fans can take part in event

CYCLING enthusiasts across Powys have the opportunity to take part in a sportive next month, on the day Britain's biggest professional cycle race returns to the county.

The Builth Sportive will take on September 7, the same day Powys hosts the Stage 4 finish of this year's Tour of Britain.

The sportive is being organised by John Lloyd Racing Events and will start and finish at the Royal Welsh Showground in Llanewdd, the venue for the Stage Four finish.

Starting at 8am, those taking part can either choose to ride 25 miles or 60 miles following a route along quiet roads with fabulous scenery and challenging climbs. There is a £20 fee to take part.

For more information and to book a place on the Tour of Britain Sportive, visit www.johnlloyddracing.com

Road improvements are 'essential for economy'

Report by Sue Austin

IMPROVEMENTS to the A5 near Oswestry are essential to bring employers and new jobs to the region, a councillor has said.

Councillor Arthur Walpole says that with huge business parks being created off the M54 now is the time to ensure that the economic boost can also be felt further north.

He says better transport links could help smaller business park projects, like one planned for Oswestry, blossom.

New transport minister John Hayes has been asked to make the dualling of the A5 road through Shropshire a top priority.

North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson has invited Mr Hayes, appointed roads minister by new Prime Minister Theresa May, to see for himself why dualling the A5 from Nesscliffe to Oswestry should be a high priority.

The invitation comes only three months after former roads minister, Andrew Jones travelled the 22-miles of the single carriageway A5 between Montford Bridge and the Welsh border by car with Mr Paterson to view the road for himself. He also took to a tractor to try to cross the trunk road at Shotatton and went on to Pant and Llanymynech to speak to residents campaigning for a bypass for the A483.

Councillor Walpole who represents a large part of the area affected by both trunk roads, said the pressure to make changes had to be kept up. He said: "We need to get the focus of the new roads minister. We were all very heartened by the visit by Andrew Jones and his calls for us to feed into the consultation for the future roads strategy. There is a lot of economic development taking place at the bottom of the M54. If we can jump on this and ensure that we get the much needed roads improvements for the A5 north of Shrewsbury than we can benefit from it.

"We need to attract businesses further north and to do that we need good transport links. There is a project for a business park at the gateway to Oswestry. Proposals like that would blossom if we could get this road improvements." Mr Paterson said he was determined to keep up the pressure for the improvements. The MP said: "I have sent the dossier of the visit by Andrew Jones and the minutes of the public meetings that he attended while he was here to John Hayes."

Pam is just wild about her craft



Exhibition organiser Sue Miller with Pam Rundle's artwork which is currently on display in Oswestry

FROM puppies to polar bears, artist Pam Rundle says her love of the countryside has inspired her new exhibition.

Her work has gone on display at the Oswestry Visitor and Exhibition Centre in the town centre.

Ms Rundle, who lives near Welshpool, has lived and worked on the Shropshire/Powys border for 20 years, sharing her life with her husband, four Italian Spinone dogs and two Main Coon cats.

Her love of the countryside and passion for animals and conservation issues has been transferred to her art, on display at the centre in

the grounds of St Oswald's Parish Church throughout August.

"I donate an amount from each sculpture I sell to a number of selected animal treatment, animal rescue and conservation societies," she said.

"I've worked in some form of art since I was 15 - starting in watercolour painting, but finally discovering the joy of sculpture.

"After trying various methods and materials, I settled with ceramic sculpture as my preferred form.

"The hand-built sculptures are made using thin slabs and small pieces of clay and built up over a

newspaper base like a puzzle or mosaic. I like to think that every one of my sculptures has some of the soul of the animal within it."

The display is one of two exhibitions currently at the centre.

The other, on the first floor, is the annual Oswestry Art competition.

More than 40 entries were hung in the centre last week and they will be judged over the next two months.

Ellie Phillips from the centre said entries included paintings, sculpture, textiles and photography.

"It was an open theme and so there are a wide variety of subjects," she said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

F1 driver Hill to talk about book

FORMER Formula One world champion Damon Hill will be in Shropshire next month to launch his new autobiography, *Watching the Wheels*.

Two days before its publication he will be at the Lion Quays Hotel, Oswestry, as the guest of the town's Booka Bookshop.

He will tell the evening what it was like to grow up as the son of one of the country's most famous racing drivers and the grief and chaos that followed his father's tragically early death in an aircraft accident in 1975, when Damon was just 15 years old.

The event will be held on September 6 at 7.30pm, with doors opening at 6.45pm. Tickets are £20.

Firework was let off in phone box

A FIREWORK was let off in a phone box, causing light damage.

Fire crews were sent to Middleton Road in Oswestry after receiving a call at 10.34pm on Thursday evening last week. One crew was sent from the Oswestry Fire Station.

The firework had only caused slight damage, and crews left the scene of the fire at about 11pm.

Meanwhile in a separate incident police are investigating a fire in a derelict property in Oswestry. Rubbish within the building on Maesbury Road in the town's industrial estate area was involved in the blaze.

The emergency services were called out at just after noon on Thursday last week.

Cuts force changes for youth services

YOUTH services in Mid Wales will be delivered differently from the autumn under council cuts.

Powys County Council says it is looking to save £550,000 over the next three years, which means changing how services are provided.

The changes will see targeted support and youth clubs at five towns in the county - Brecon, Llandrindod Wells, Newtown, Welshpool and Ystradgynlais. In smaller towns clubs will be replaced with targeted provision and support by schools.



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The two councillors and Judith Rogers

Councillor praises tenants' pride

IMPROVEMENTS to houses in Chirk mean residents take pride in their homes which translates into the area they live in, a councillor says.

County Councillor Ian Roberts, who represents Chirk North on Wrexham Council, says work carried out on properties to meet the Welsh Government's Welsh Housing Quality Standard has given residents a

sense of pride and improved their quality of life. Properties in Chirk, including bungalows on Princess Avenue, have undergone a major revamp.

Work has included kitchens and bathrooms being replaced, as well as re-roofing and heating installed at the properties.

Wrexham Council is currently carrying out extensive improvement

work on its housing properties to ensure they meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard by the 2020 deadline.

Chirk resident Judith Rogers, 64, who lives on Princess Avenue, has a brand new kitchen, thanks to the improvement work being carried out. She said: "I'm delighted with my new kitchen, and it actually feels like a kitchen compared to how

it was before." Councillor Roberts and fellow County Councillor Terry Evans recently visited the properties. Councillor Roberts said: "It's great to see tenants so pleased and delighted with the work that's been carried out in their homes.

"These improvements are benefiting their everyday lives and bringing these homes up to a modern standard."

Council increases funding for service transfer plans

Report by Andrew Morris

FUNDING available for community organisations interested in taking over some local services is being increased by Powys County Council's cabinet.

Following a review, the cabinet has agreed to increase funding available to town, community councils and other community organisations to 45 per cent of the direct cost of providing the service.

The funding will be offered for five years following transfer of the service with a review of operations at the end of that period. The new funding arrangements replace a sliding scale that operated over three years with a maximum of 40 per cent of costs.

Firm backs cricket club

A CRICKET club has signed a new sponsorship agreement with a well known vehicle business.

Vauxhall dealership Arthurs has entered into the agreement with Oswestry Cricket Club, with signs and banners put up at the cricket club's Morda Road clubhouse. The company will also advertise in the club's match day programmes and will use social media to reach out to a wider audience.

Arthurs sales manager Matt Hine said the company had been trading in Oswestry since 1923 and was pleased to support the club.

He said: "Arthurs has always been very active in the local community and this latest sponsorship package with the cricket club further enhances our support of the community.

"We are a local business with local customers and we like to sponsor local clubs." This is what Arthurs is all about."

Cabinet member for commissioning Councillor Graham Brown said: "This new funding scheme provides more funding and greater security for those organisations considering taking on local service delivery. We are confident that the new scheme will prove attractive to local organisations and generate more interest in taking on important local services for the benefit of their communities. Without increased take up from community organisations the level of services provided by the county council could fall to a minimum or disappear completely. The new regime has already been successful with the county council agreeing in principle service delivery transfers to Welshpool Town Council on the basis of the 45 per cent service cost. The payment will be benchmarked against 2015/16 car parking income and will form the basis for a review after three years.

"We are delighted to reach agreement, which is subject to ratification by the cabinet and town council, it is very much part of county council's drive to preserve and maintain services at a local level at a time of austerity. We look forwards to working closely with other local communities in order to achieve that ambition."

Incubators for air ambulances



Incubators are set to be installed on Wales Air Ambulances to boost care of babies

BABIES in need of urgent care will be able to get treatment faster with incubators set to be installed on Wales Air Ambulances.

The charity, which has a helicopter based at Mid Wales Airport in Welshpool, has bought two £70,000 bespoke incubators which will be fitted on board later this year.

Their introduction will replace long road ambulance journeys for babies from across the region.

The charity operates the official National Children's Air Ambulance in Wales, airlifting 250 children a year from life-threatening emergencies or to children's hospitals

across the UK. The incubators boast the world's first infant harness tested to aviation emergency landing conditions.

The charity has also recently announced it has bought a new helicopter. Charity chief executive Angela Hughes said: "Crucially, the incubator is heated, and has a Perspex chamber, meaning that medics can see clearly in order to monitor the baby during the course of the flight. It'll enable us to accept more missions to help save lives across Wales." Crew training is currently taking place and the incubator service will run as a trial to the end of 2016.

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Report by Naomi Penrose

TEAMS of fundraisers are taking part in an unique money-spinning challenge for charity.

The fundraiser, organised by Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Club and the British Ironwork Centre, will see brave supporters from Fusion Arts, Elite Fitness and Oswestry CrossFit take on a four-hour hike to the summit of Snowdon.

But the climb up the famous mountain is no regular trek. Each team will be carrying far more than the ordinary supplies – for a T-Rex sculpture weighing in at over 200kg will be travelling with them. The spectacular dinosaur will be dismantled and carried in parts by each of the participants.

Life-saving duties for caring Hedd

WHEN he was a college student Hedd Thomas had an unusual interest outside the classroom – volunteering as a lifeboat crew member.

Returning to his landlocked home he never thought his skills would be needed again. But last week the 29-year-old headed off to the Greek island of Lesbos to crew a lifeboat run by Refugee Rescue.

Mr Thomas, from Llanwddyn near Oswestry, is spending two weeks patrolling the seas where thousands of refugees have lost their lives.

He is raising funds to help crew the vessel, Mo Chara, a decommissioned RNLI Atlantic 75 Lifeboat. After completing his GCSEs at Llanfyllin High School, Mr Thomas carried on his studies at an international college on the Bristol Channel.

"It was there, nine years ago, I trained to crew a lifeboat," he said. "I completed college with a pager on my belt, ready to ditch class and run down to the station should the coastguard ever give the call."

"Now that call has come again."

He said after retraining with Atlantic Pacific he was ready to begin his service. The musician and writer said crewing a lifeboat was not cheap and the charity ran entirely on donations.

"There's flights, accommodation and food. There's also medical supplies, life jackets, dry suits, radios, tools and constant maintenance," he added.

Visit <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/hedd> to donate.

To make things even harder it will then be re-assembled once they reach the top. Man-made straps and specially customised logs will be used to help carry the mammoth sculpture 1,085 metres to the peak.

It is hoped that through this challenge more than £5,000 can be raised for Hope House Children's Hospice, based at Morda near Oswestry, with more than £100 already donated.

Jay Moore, exhibition lead and mastermind behind the challenge, has spent months painstakingly planning and organising the event, ensuring every base is covered. He said: "We're all getting very excited."

"It's taken some time to get everything together."

"The team at Snowdon have been very supportive, and our friends at The British Ironwork Centre, CrossFit and Team Elite have all embraced the cause with open arms. It's all starting to feel very real now."

"It's one of those ideas that sounds great in your head, but when you say it aloud you quickly realise just how much trouble you've got yourself in."

Members of CrossFit Oswestry are pumped and more than prepared to tackle things head on. A spokesman said: "When we were asked to take part in the challenge we were more than happy to get involved."

"It's for a great cause and when the Ironwork Centre are organising something, you can be sure it will be an epic adventure."

Mr Moore recently met Ben Knowles, managing director of The British Ironwork Centre, Clare Walker from CrossFit and Rich Cosgrove from Team Elite to chat about the challenge.

The gruelling mission will begin at 6.45am on August 21 and once they begin there can be no turning back.

Anyone who would like to contribute to the cause and help reach the target for Hope House should visit the just giving page at crowdfunding.justgiving.com/JurassicHike



Jay Moore, Ben Knowles, Clare Walker and Rich Cosgrove ready for the challenge

Warning on 'tombstoning'

TEENAGERS are being warned of the dangers of "tombstoning" off bridges across Shropshire and Mid Wales.

The warning comes after police were called to Llangollen near Oswestry where youths had been seen jumping into the rock-strewn River Dee below.

A spokesman for North Wales Police said: "The water can be very deep and swimmers can easily find themselves out of their depth."

"The hidden dangers are immense and can quickly lead to something more serious."

Youngsters have been seen jumping into rivers in local towns and villages and caught on camera splashing about on Shrewsbury's weir too.

Inspector James Dunn, from West Mercia Police, said entering the water at Shrewsbury's weir was a "highly dangerous" activity.

The officer said: "I urge parents to make sure they know where their youngsters are and give them strong advice about the dangers."

A spokesman for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, said: "Tombstoning is an activity which has occurred around the coast for generations, unfortunately over recent years it has gained attention for the wrong reasons, with a number of people killed or seriously injured."

"The title was adopted because of the way a person falls and plunges into deep water, in a similar way a stone would."

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Hearing councils talk about cutting leisure services across Shropshire makes me really angry so what a relief it was to hear that Oswestry's Leisure Centre is safe.

County authorities have a moral duty to ensure there is provision for leisure activities and Shropshire falls into that category, despite all the cuts the body is having to make. News that Shropshire Council will invest and support a community leisure hub at Oswestry is the best news I've heard for a long time.

The authority has announced plans to invest in Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Ludlow as part of a 20-year strategy – which makes complete sense. They are the three most populated areas of this section of Shropshire and Oswestry's outstanding leisure centre will continue to attract visitors from a wide area around the town.

A recent audit gave the centre a 92% excellent score, describing the venue as a "flagship facility for North Shropshire."

The fact that 223,555 visits were made to the centre last year is testimony to its popularity. It would have been a sad day for Oswestry and a massive black mark against Shropshire Council had a decision been made to close the facility.

And talking about getting angry brings me to the subject of a group of travellers who descended on Welshpool last week, taking over the town centre's Church Street Car Park with an array of highly expensive cars, vans, caravans and motorhomes.

How can this be allowed to happen for over a week before Powys County Council take enforcement action to have them shifted? Did any of them pay a penny to be parked there? No. So why should we put up with it?

On the very day they arrived I was reading an article in a South Wales newspaper about immediate action being taken to remove a similar visitation from a public park in Cardiff. So why did Powys County Council take so long to move these visitors on?

And just as a final message to Powys Council it was interesting to note that the travellers first put up camp in the Berriew Street Car Park but quickly moved base after finding themselves overrun by rats from the county council owned skips.

What message does that send out to visitors to Welshpool?

The people of Welshpool and the rest of the county are quickly running out of patience with Powys Council.

Everyone appreciates the authority is having to make cuts with less Welsh Government funding on the table but the big question is are the cuts being made in the right places?



Baking with youngsters can be great fun – and a bit messy too



A movie afternoon can be entertaining, just don't choose a film which is too scary



Powis Castle near Welshpool is a fantastic place to visit whatever the weather

Don't let a rainy day dampen your family spirit

HEATHER LARGE gives some tips on how families can survive and enjoy a wet summer holiday

WE'VE all been there. You have a great day out planned perhaps around Oswestry and in the Welshpool area, but when you get up in the morning and look out of the window, it's raining cats and dogs.

We all know that summer weather in Britain can be anything but predictable so when the rain clouds strike unexpected it helps to have a few things up your sleeve to keep young ones entertained.

No one wants to hear repeated shouts of 'I'm bored' and luckily there are some ideas of indoor activities for rainy days.

Treasure

Why not go on a treasure hunt?

Make a set of clues and hide them around the house and if you have children of different ages, you give them their own set.

The treasure could be a small treat such as a toy or art supplies to keep them busy later in the day.

Or how about setting up camp in the living room.

The weather may not be nice enough to do the real thing outside but you can still pitch a tent or even just throw a sheet or blanket over some chairs to create a fort indoors.

Get the sleeping bags out and sing songs and tell stories around a pretend camp fire.

How about getting crafty?

Most children will have probably received craft sets for Christmas or birthday days which have never been opened.



We've all been there – a summer holiday spoilt by rainy days

Now is the time to get these out of the cupboards and let the young children's creative juices flow.

For older children you could look online for some more advanced craft ideas or some DIY science experiments.

Meanwhile, people of all ages might love to have a game of snakes and ladders or Monopoly.

Traditional board games are making a come back so dig them out for a few hours of fun.

Teach

Get a deck of cards and teach children some family card games or take it in turns to make up a new game with its own rules.

For the film buffs in the house, why not enjoy a movie afternoon?

There is no need to venture out to the

their own pictures or scrapbook. Older children could make their own magazine or book using the pictures to illustrate.

Still on the entertainment theme you can create a home theatre to keep the youngsters occupied during the wet weather.

If your children like performing they could write their own play and perform it for you in the living room.

They could raid the dressing up box for costumes and make their own tickets and posters.

Or why not snap some pictures? Hand over your camera phone to your children so they can be photographers for the day.

You could set them challenges such as photographing 10 red things in the house or get them to tell a story.

Then if you can print them off at home or when you next go out.

And of course there is the classic game of hide and seek to keep your youngsters busy on the wet days.

Favourite

It's an old favourite which can be made harder by allowing children to move around from hiding place to hiding place with the aim of not being seen by the seeker.

If after all that you get fed up of being cooped up indoors, you could always put on waterproofs and wellies to go for a walk in the rain.

There are plenty of places to visit around Oswestry and Welshpool even if the weather is not great.

It can be a bit of a challenge but a climb up Old Oswestry Hillfort will be rewarded with fantastic views around the area. For the history buffs, a trip to Powis Castle near Welshpool is a great way to spend a day, and also a great way to escape the worst of the rain.

Chirk Castle near Oswestry also provides an interesting day out for all people of all ages while Whittington Castle near Oswestry is full of history and often puts on events for visitors of all ages.

WORKING FOR YOU



This column is about the state of UK politics.

The last few months have been almost unbelievable – more tumultuous than I've ever known.

It all began with the last General Election.

None of the opinion polls had predicted a Conservative victory. Such was the shock that the leaders of both the Labour and Liberal Democrats, Ed Miliband and Nick Clegg resigned immediately afterwards.

It was an even bigger shock when Jeremy Corbyn was elected Labour leader, despite most Labour MPs not supporting him. He was elected by party members. And then we had the EU Referendum.

The British people decided that we would leave the European Union – yet another shock, not predicted by any of the opinion polls.

This led to the immediate resignation of David Cameron, and the rapid election of Theresa May as our new Prime Minister. Incredibly, out of this turmoil, the Conservative Government now looks stable and secure.

At present, turmoil is rife in Her Majesty's Official Opposition, otherwise known as the Labour Party. It may seem odd that a Conservative MP is concerned about the future of Labour.

But I am. Since political giants, Disraeli and Gladstone faced each other across the Despatch Box, British politics has been adversarial.

The Government proposes, and the Opposition opposes, testing the soundness of what's proposed in fierce forensic debate.

In theory, only a well-argued new law will make it to the Statute Book.

Bad law is created when opposition is too weak to challenge. Which is where we are now.

The Labour opposition is in a shambolic state, and seems totally uninterested in taking power by winning a General Election.

And in addition, this worries me because of the tendency for Government backbenchers to provide the opposition when the official Opposition doesn't or cannot.

And it's not just British politics that is going through a nervous breakdown.

Across the Atlantic, we see the Republican candidate for the office of President and leader of the free world is a rabble rouser.

Surely he cannot win, but in today's political climate anything seems possible.

We really could do with some boring calm.

Glyn Davies
Montgomeryshire MP

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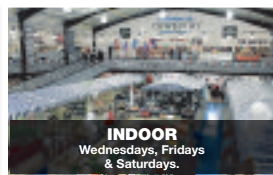
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A watered down deal will be done

THE referendum is over and the people have spoken with a clear majority expressing their wish to leave the EU and return to trading peacefully with every country in the world who wants to do business with us – particularly our neighbours, those European countries close to us on the Continent.

The renowned skittish markets reacted exactly the way we thought, and will continue to do so until stability returns, but the vote did not trigger the third world war. Armageddon did not happen and we were knee deep in olive branches from most people from Merkel to America, with new

approaches from the old Commonwealth like Australia and Canada.

So everything is on track for an amicable divorce. Sensible commercial and political people can now talk together peacefully and sensibly with a willingness to co-operate and put the punch trading behind us.

Unfortunately, one only had to watch TV the day after the referendum to witness venom-spitting Remainers declaring in every other sentence that Ukip, the only party that gave British people the chance to vote in a referendum, were racists and that the unbelievable dirty tricks and 'operation fear' played by the Remainers was in fact

the fault of the Leavers. I suggest the dirty tricks and operation fear will go on as the EU are not going to chance a contagion in Europe, or give up their power easily – plan 'B' 'C' and 'D' will be played, and it will get very, dirty. I forecast that further political games will be played, there will be delays, discussions, new wording will be found to withdraw the result or a watered-down version will be agreed that will leave us in the EU on a slightly different basis. The will of the people should be done, sadly, I fear it is the people who will be 'done'.

BRIAN SEYMOUR
Kynnersley

This is not loyalty to a cause, it is just greed

I AM stunned and amazed by the naivety of Philip George, re. last week's letters column.

His comments on the (Boris) Johnson family loyalties are the specific reason that so many millions of people voted out. The cat is out of the bag, as he rightly admits that Stanley Johnson worked for and reaped the very comfortable income and benefits from Brussels as did other family members. This is not loyalty to a cause, this is greed, as along with too many others to mention, that we in the leave campaign saw as having well paid jobs for life (and with little benefit to us) but taking the rich pickings directly from us as Tax payers and added benefits of gold standard inflation proof pensions and benefits to boot from a system of dual parliaments!

As for his agreed belief that there is a lot wrong with the EU is beyond credibility, as he states that "There is nothing that cannot be overcome by 'Determined Engagement' on the part of Britain".

What planet is this man living on as he obviously knows nothing of European dictatorial control, where we have virtually no power in decision making with less than 4% of votes.

The decision to leave was right as we can have no future within a Europe that sells more to us than we to them and persistently outvotes us on all issues.

We are no longer a nation of shopkeepers but of customers of the EU, however many of us would prefer to shop elsewhere!

HENRY PORCHER

OSWESTRY

Outcome must be honoured

THE Remain people should now apply to the Government for a whingers charter, this could cover all aspects of losing, including the voting in of our constituent members of Parliament, there should be a re-run as we never got the one we voted for.

All current Remain MPs should resign and thus force a by-election, but please do not hold your breath, this is so unlikely to happen that you would get better odds at the bookmakers on the sun and moon colliding.

So much for democracy in this country, just keep holding elections until you get the answer you want, we might as well invite Putin to take over the running of this country as our elected MPs cannot seem to run anything, not even a bingo stall.

I expected the EU to demand a re-run as we had got it wrong, but I did not expect that we had so many traitors to democracy in our own establishment. If you win, you win, if you lose, you lose. That is how living in a normal society things work out.

This country is fast descending into a comic opera farce and the whole world is laughing at us. Out means out, in means in, just look it up in a dictionary.

K BEDDIS
Yockleton

Queen's Hotel was important landmark in town



An undated picture showing the Queen's Hotel, Oswestry, although the vintage of the car parked outside gives some idea of the era, which must be somewhere around 1910. The photo comes from the collection of historian and author David Trumper.

There is a high price to pay for this turbine work

HOW many people have worked out the actual carbon footprint which will occur in the process of delivering and erecting the wind turbines near Carno?

Energy will be used in:

1. Manufacturing the turbines.
2. Trial run for lorries from Goole in Yorkshire to Carno including a police escort.
3. Parts of the route have been excavated and islands altered to allow these huge lorries to travel, again using a great amount of energy.
4. The actual transportation of the turbines with presumably many journeys to and from Goole, with police escorts.
5. The construction of foundations at the site including delivery of concrete, which in itself uses energy to produce, by a fleet of lorries.

In the meantime, the tourist industry, which the area is heavily dependent, will suffer.

What a shameful waste!

RALPH GRAVES
Minsterley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Questions still need answers

SO the Leavers have won.

Does this mean that we will also take back control of other things like our banks, our railways, our nuclear power, our car industry? Will we now start training our own nurses and doctors? When the hand-picked harvesting starts, will we flock to the fields? Will wages rise because those pesky immigrants aren't here to work for less? Will Dyson and his kind bring their businesses back to UK? Don't hold your breath.

TERRY HILLIER
Four Crosses

This change will be for the best for our country

AFTER much speculation over the months and weeks; the decision to exit the EU has finally been made.

This time the vote was a democratic one along with transparency and the people voted with their feet. No one knows for sure what the future holds; but I believe this change will be for the better of our country in the long term and it is this change that we need. We have been shackled for far too long by bureaucrats in Brussels and those politicians in this country who live in their ivory tower called Westminster. They have failed miserably to address those fundamental issues so important to the lives of people; such as the economy and many social and environmental issues. I feel excited for the future and especially for our young people who after all have only ever known us being in the EU.

As a Christian my belief is that this is a God intervention and I am not worrying about anything that maybe out of our control.

PEARL DUNBAR
Shrewsbury

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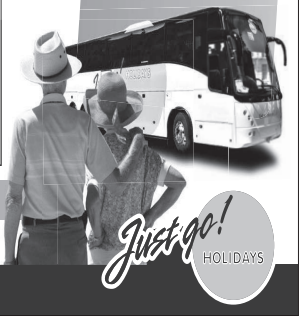
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Teens arrested over drug offences

MORE than 120 teenagers – and one 12-year-old – have been arrested for drug offences in the region over the last five years.

Figures released by West Mercia Police, the force that covers Shropshire, Herefordshire, and Worcestershire, show that between 2011 and 2015, 128 young people under the age of 16 have been arrested for drug offences, including possession, supply and even production in one instance – with a 15-year-old arrested for cannabis production.

The youngest offender was 12-years-old, while the highest number of arrests were among 15-year-olds, with 82 made over the five-year period.

Five 13-year-olds were arrested, as well as 40 14-year-olds.

Offences include possession of Class A drugs including cocaine, heroin and MDMA, possession of Class B drugs cannabis, amphetamine and a derivative of cathinone, and a Class C substance.

Farm's wedding glamping venue

A FARM business is moving into the wedding and the tourism industry by offering "glamping" accommodation.

Tanycoed Farm, in Llansilin, near Oswestry, has been granted planning permission for the use of land for a glamping site, which will offer luxurious camping facilities.

The plans include 10 yurts and the conversion of the existing stables and a disused room over a garage into additional glamping accommodation.

Permission has also been granted to use some of the land for an additional campsite for up to about 20 tents.

Within the permission is also the change of use and conversion of a barn to a wedding and event venue with alterations including a patio area and the conversion of a stable into a toilet and shower block.

Centre appeal boosted by ex-mayor's donation

Report by Naomi Penrose

AN appeal to help fund new bone cancer facilities at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital has taken another big step towards completion – after a generous donation from the former Mayor of Oswestry.

Councillor Peter Cherrington made the hospital's Bone Cancer Centre Appeal one of two beneficiaries of the Mayor's Charity Appeal during his year in the hotseat.

And, having handed the chains of office on to Cllr Paul Milner back in May, he visited the hospital to present a cheque for £1,875 to chief executive Mark Brandreth and trust chairman Frank Collins.

The money will go towards providing dedicated bone cancer facilities inside the hospital's new £15.1 million ward and theatre development.

Mr Brandreth said: "I'm humbled and honoured that Councillor Cherrington chose our appeal as one of two to benefit from his charitable efforts during his year as mayor."

"This is a fantastic hospital and having so many supporters gives our staff the drive to run a world class service. This donation is going towards a great cause and I can't wait to see the centre benefit from it."

Mr Collins said: "We are delighted that Councillor Cherrington chose to raise money for the hospital."

"Our tumour patients will benefit from the improved facilities we will be able to offer once our new centre opens, and we are so grateful to our fundraisers for making that possible."

Councillor Cherrington chose the centre alongside Marie Curie Cancer to raise money for during his year in office as Oswestry mayor.



Paul Cool, consultant orthopaedic surgeon, Mark Brandreth, chief executive, Frank Collins, trust chairman, Peter Cherrington and Gillian Cribb, consultant orthopaedic surgeon, at the cheque handover

Campaign is launched to curb crime

A NEW campaign has been launched to help farmers and others living and working in the countryside protect themselves against thieves.

The Stop That Thief campaign is being rolled out across Shropshire after a successful run across the border in Herefordshire, where it was introduced in 2013.

The move comes as the insurance arm of the National Farmers Union released figures showing that the cost of claims from rural thefts in 2015 rose by 28 per cent in Shropshire in 2015, leaving businesses and households more than £750,000 out of pocket.

The Stop That Thief Campaign in Shropshire was officially launched at Yockleton, near Shrewsbury, at Newnham Farm.

The scheme brings together local security equipment suppliers and installers, vetted by police and offering special deals, to get countryside premises upgraded across the board with the latest and most effective crime-preventing measures.

The campaign was started in Dorset and brought to Herefordshire in 2013 by PCSOs in Kingston.

Castle to host a vintage fete

A VINTAGE fete will take place in the grounds of a castle near Oswestry.

The fete will take place at Whittington Castle.

Activities at Whittington Village Fete will include games, music, rides, stalls, demonstrations, a tug of war, bouncy castle, food, drinks and a bar.

The event has been organised by Whittington Together.

It will take place at Whittington Castle from noon until 6pm on August 29.

Entry will be free.

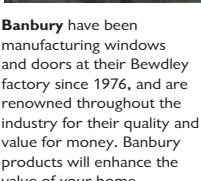
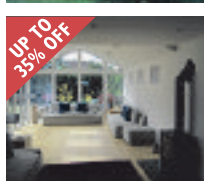
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Students at college are recipients of top awards

COLLEGE students received certificates for Duke of Edinburgh awards at a ceremony.

The event at Derwen College in Gobowen was attended by Mayor of Oswestry, Councillor Paul Milner, parents and sponsors.

Students received awards for bronze, silver and gold level Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and were presented with certificates by the mayor.

The expeditions were among the toughest of the sections that the students had to complete. Bronze award winners did a practice walking and camping overnighter in Ellesmere with the expedition in Llangollen.

For the silver award there was a three-day and two-night canoe expedition. The students did a practice expedition on the River Wye canoeing from Glasbury to Hereford – about 38 miles. They then completed their expedition on the River Severn from Llandrinio to Ironbridge – about 40 miles, including negotiating the Jackfield Rapids.

Those who completed gold did a four-day and three-night canoe expedition. Students took part in practice expedition on the River Severn and the assessed expedition on the River Spey in Scotland. Starting in Aviemore they canoed 75 miles to Spey Bay where the river meets the North Sea. "These are such great achievements for our students who have demonstrated amazing learning, team work and overcoming challenges throughout these awards. The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards make up an important part of the learning here at Derwen. We would like to thank the mayor for coming along and also all the sponsors who help to make the expeditions possible," chief executive, Ruth Thomas said.

Youngsters are urged to stay healthy in holidays

Report by Sue Austin

SCHOOLCHILDREN are being challenged to keep their mind and body fit over the summer holidays.

Powys County Council's library service and Freedom Leisure have joined forces to help children stay fit mentally and physically over the summer months.

The council's library service is challenging children between the ages of four to 11 to join the Big Friendly Read, this year's summer reading challenge, and read six books from their local library.

When they have completed the challenge, they will receive a medal and certificate, plus a free family swim voucher, courtesy of Freedom Leisure, and will also have the chance to win donated prizes and take part in many events in libraries across the county. At the same time, Freedom Leisure has asked children in Powys between the ages of four and 14 to join the junior summer fitness challenge over the holidays. Grown-ups will also be able to join in the fun as this year's challenge includes special family activities. Trish Thomas, the council's children's librarian, said: "The message is simple, we want kids to stay fit mentally and physically over the summer and we see the two services working together to jointly promote these challenges over the holidays."

Councillor Graham Brown, deputy leader and cabinet member for library services, said: "Both challenges encourage the need for mental and physical activity, and the wellbeing and health of our young is always a priority." The "Big Friendly Read" runs until September. Free swim vouchers can be redeemed at Freedom Leisure's pools until October 30.

Look out for the mole in our midst



The mole plough which will become an increasingly common sight in rural Shropshire over the summer

IS it a digger? Is it a crane? No, it's a mole plough.

This strange-looking piece of machinery is set to become an increasingly common sight in parts of Shropshire over the summer as the laying of fibre-optic cables to deliver faster internet connections continues.

Mole ploughs will be deployed as part of the Connecting Shropshire initiative to bring fast broadband internet links to the more remote parts of the county.

Connecting Shropshire is a joint initiative by Shropshire Council and BT to increase superfast broadband coverage in rural areas.

The mole plough digs below the earth's surface and threads the cables through a small hole, in an attempt to minimise disruption to motorists. The specialist machinery creates a channel through the soil just big enough to enable engineers to lay the ducting, for the fibre optic cable to be pulled through later.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Royal theme for show in village

A VILLAGE show will have a royal theme this year.

Leighton Village Show will be held on September 10 and will mark the Queen's 90th birthday.

The signs are up, the grass will be mown, marquees will be erected, cups and tractors polished, cakes baked and corgis' coats knitted while many other show entries will be prepared with care. The day includes a fell and fun run and the fun dog show. Panic Puppies will be on hand to entertain the children. Along with all the produce and craft entries, fancy dress, children's sports being run by Leighton School, vintage vehicles, bowling, laser shooting, tug of war, and bouncy castles there will be a chance to show off traditional country skills with tractor reversing, a grand draw, a full bar, bale tossing and much more besides.

The vintage tea tent will keep everyone happy throughout the afternoon with a variety of stalls to peruse. The car park is on the flat fields alongside and allows for easy access throughout the day.

Church will host evening of song

AN evening of song will take place in a village church near Oswestry in the autumn.

Oswestry-based The Very Nice Production Company returns to Whittington Parish Church by popular demand on September 24.

The company members will be performing 'There's No Business Like Show Business'.

The musical evening will kick off at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £10 and are available by calling (01691) 662116 or from churchwarden Mike Phipps.

Proceeds from the event are in aid of church funds.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Gearing up for the big train race

AN annual race the train event will take place later this year.

Organised by Welshpool Rotary Club, the event, which sees cyclists race the train from the town's Raven Square Station, is taking place on September 11.

The train travels eight miles, while cyclists will travel for 10.

On the day of the event those taking part can book at Welshpool Raven Square Station from 10.30am, while the final time for booking in is at 11am.

The entry fee is £6 a cycle, and all competitors must be over 14 years old. All cyclists must wear a cycle helmet and have a cycle which is road-worthy.

There will be check points on route with marshals, drinks and chocolate.

To book your place email town-clerk@mail.com, call (01938) 553142 or 07767 267830.

You may also turn up on the day.

Council looking for homes tenders

BUSINESSES are being urged to apply for work in bringing homes in Mid Wales up to standard.

As part of the commitment to bring Powys County Council's housing stock up to Welsh Housing Quality Standard there is a continued need to carry out major works of improvement to council properties across the county.

The contracts for delivering these programmes of works will be tendered out for the period 2017-2021.

Cabinet member responsible for housing, Councillor Rosemarie Harris said: "The tender to carry out these works is part of a critical programme for us to ensure all our housing stock is brought up to standard in the next two years, and to ensure that we maintain the standard beyond that point."

AM concerned about school closure figures

Report by Naomi Penrose

THE Welsh Government has been criticised for "failing to protect the interests of communities" as 18 schools have closed across Powys in the past decade.

Russell George, Assembly Member for Montgomeryshire, has hit out at the government after it was revealed that since 2006 there have been 157 school closures across Wales – 60 per cent of them in rural Wales.

The areas worst affected by closures are Powys, which has seen 18 schools close, and Ceredigion with 20. Mr George said: "The disproportionate rate at which schools in rural Wales are being shut down shows that the Welsh Government is failing to protect the interests of communities across Powys."

"Now that we have a new cabinet secretary for education, Kirsty Williams AM, who represents a large part of Powys, I will be looking for this trend to be reversed because I believe no rural school delivering the national curriculum should close, without the agreement of parents and governors." The figure was revealed after a written Assembly question was submitted by the Welsh Conservatives to the Welsh Government's Cabinet Secretary for Education.

Mr George said: "Rural schools are at the heart of community life, often providing the only public building for miles around, and the threat of closure still hangs over a number of rural schools across Mid Wales. It's vital that rural local authorities get a better deal from the Welsh Government in the future and that alternatives to closure, such as schools working together to share staff and resources, are given the chance to work before closure is considered."

Youngsters embrace the countryside



The youngsters enjoy the views during their visit to Trefnant Hall Farm

MORE than 100 youngsters got together to embrace the countryside – whether they were farmers or not.

Shropshire YFC met for a farm walk at Trefnant Hall Farm on the Powis Castle estate, near Welshpool.

The farm walk was part of a new initiative within the organisation to encourage youngsters to enjoy the countryside whether they come from a farming background or not.

Hosts David and Marc Jones welcomed guests to the farm walk which was supported from members from across the county's 18 clubs, along with their family and friends.

They took part in a debate organised by the group's agri forum representative Matthew Jones in partnership with the organisation's sponsors Alltech EC02 and Shropshire Farm Vets. Organisers said they were delighted by the turnout at the event which offered an insight into the real life agricultural world.

They said the evening was a great success, with the hosts being very open and honest about all aspects of their business. The organisation offered its thanks to David and Marc Jones whose enthusiasm and business mindset was a "breath of fresh air".

Fundraising opportunities for groups

COMMUNITY groups are being encouraged to raise some extra funds by having a table at an indoor car boot-style sale.

Welshpool Town Council is urging groups to get involved in its table top sales and coffee mornings.

The events will be held in the Corn Exchange of the town hall.

The fundraisers will take place on September 17 and October 15.

There are only a limited number of tables available and these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, so booking early is advised.

Tables cost £5 each organisers have said.

As well as community organisations, charities, schools and individuals are also welcome.

The room will be available from 8.30am to set up for stallholders, while the doors will be open to the public from 9am until about 1pm.

Entry is free and teas and coffees will be available.

For more information and to reserve a table contact Welshpool Town Council's office on (01938) 553142 or email town-clerk@welshpooltown-council.gov.uk

Private landlords training reminder

PRIVATE sector landlords are being reminded they must undertake training and obtain a licence by November under new housing legislation.

Powys County Council has arranged training courses after its housing team gained accreditation to deliver Rent Smart Wales' private sector landlord training.

For further information about the new rules people can contact Peter Tagg, private sector housing environmental health officer, by email on peter.tagg@powys.gov.uk

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Mayor sees new hospital theatre

NEW facilities at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital have been given the seal of approval.

Councillor Paul Milner, Mayor of Oswestry, said he was delighted to see the new theatre project.

Councillor Milner met Mark Brandreth, chief executive, and the chairman of the trust, Frank Collins, at the hospital.

The discussions looked at the future plans of the hospital, the general debate on the NHS in the county and the huge changes being made in the hospital with the £15.1 million investment in wards and new operating theatres.

"It was my privilege to be given a tour of the wonderful new facilities with Julie Roberts, deputy manager of nursing, and Justin Williams, the operations manager for Kier Construction," Councillor Milner said.

The new development at the hospital is set to be completed this month with the first patients entering on August 30.

Pet cat is on the road to recovery

A CAT which was found injured is defying the odds by recovering.

Biscuit, a five-year-old, was found by owner Kathryn Jones near Berriew, Welshpool, with injuries.

Vets told Ms Jones that it appeared Biscuit had been hit with something, causing a broken spine.

But the cat is making good progress, she said.

"She is still very ill and having a daily visit to the vet," said Ms Jones.

"She is getting stronger but still cannot use her bladder so fingers crossed she will get the use of that back.

"We are keeping positive and the support from Camlas Vets has been brilliant.

"At this moment there is no other information on who did this."

Residents concerned about housing proposals

Report by Sue Austin

RESIDENTS in a village fear their garage and car parking area could be lost for housing.

People living at Bryn Melyn, Llynclys, near Oswestry, said that parking spots are few and far between on their former council estate.

Now they have been told that Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing, which manages those homes that are rented, is looking to build bungalows on what it now the main area for their vehicles.

Tom Casewell, who lives at Bryn Melyn, said that some of the home were owned by villagers and some were rented.

"We have always assumed that our car park would be left as a car park," he said.

"There are not enough spaces for all the houses as it is. Parking on the road would be just too dangerous. Now it looks like the car park might have to go for the sake of a few houses. It is ridiculous."

Jason O'Donoghue, development manager for Shropshire Towns & Rural Housing, said: "The views of our tenants and surrounding communities are of great importance to everyone at Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing, and so we invited residents of Bryn Melyn to a public consultation event to discuss proposals to develop the garage area.

"This is a pre-planning consultation event; no planning application has been submitted to date, and we are interested in hearing what the residents think about the proposal to redevelop the site and provide much needed affordable housing in the area.

"Our current proposal shows two bungalows, designed for the over 55s."

Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing Ltd is a not for profit "arm's length" management organisation which manages Shropshire Council's social housing.



Tom Casewell on the car parking area at Llynclys which may be used for housing in the future

Firefighters thanked for raising cash

FIREFIGHTERS in Mid Wales raised more than £120,000 for charity.

Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service said it raised £124,372 for The Firefighters Charity in 2015/16.

The service has been awarded with a certificate of appreciation to acknowledge its dedication to the charity.

Chief executive of the charity, Dr Jill Tolfrey, said: "I am delighted to be awarding the certificate of appreciation recording the support and contribution staff and volunteers have made in fundraising. We are very appreciative of all fundraising activity, especially promotion of regular giving and the lottery and for your support in promoting the charity and encouraging the use of our services".

Chief Fire Officer Chris Davies, said: "I am very proud of the dedication and involvement that the service has put into money-raising ventures for the charity, from station open days to community car washes, and local-led initiatives.

"The Firefighters Charity is a vital service which assists members of the service to receive recuperation when they have suffered injuries."

Caretaker takes on the Big Zipper

NORTH Shropshire College's Phil Jones will be taking on the Big Zipper in Snowdonia on September 18 to raise money for Hope House Children's Hospice.

Mr Jones is one of the caretakers at the Oswestry campus and a well known member of staff.

The Big Zipper is the longest zip line in Europe and people can reach up to 100mph on it.

People can visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/caretakerphil to sponsor Mr Jones in his fundraising challenge for the hospice.

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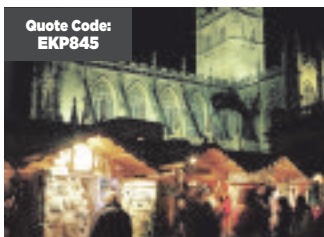
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Train enthusiasts in for a gala treat

TRAIN enthusiasts are in for a treat when they visit the Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway.

The railway's traditional September Gala weekend is being expanded. This year's event will take place on September 2 to 4. Organisers said the gala weekend is one of several events to be held on the railway this year. General manager Charles Spencer said: "We are planning a range of attractions which we hope will encourage visitors to come to us more than once. On a given weekend the goings-on could be completely different from the previous week – or the next one."

Timetables and details of special events will be published on www.wllr.org.uk.

Further information is available from info@wllr.org.uk or by calling (01938) 810441.

Grants given out to help communities

GRANTS totalling £85,000 will help police and communities fight crime and help keep people safe across Mid Wales.

From dealing with child sexual exploitation to keeping older people safe, a wide range of projects have received funding. Age Cymru Powys has been given a grant for £5,000 to help it work more closely with the police to give support for older people.

The charity was awarded the grant by the Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn.

More than 20 initiatives are to benefit the fourth round of grants donations from the Commissioner's Fund. The fund offers grants of up to £5,000 for charities, voluntary organisations and community groups to develop ideas that have a positive impact on the area they serve. The £5,000 will help Age Cymru Powys work more closely with the police, enabling officers to better identify those who may be particularly vulnerable or isolated.

Mutts and mongrels welcome at rotary club's big dog show

PET owners are getting their dogs ready for the Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Dog Show at Hengoed.

The Ruffs Fun Dog Show takes place on August 28 and the organisers are encouraging everyone to come along with their dogs and take part in the event.

Organisers say the event is an opportunity for children and adults alike to bring their mongrels and mutts along for a fun afternoon and see if their dog can win a rosette for the waggiest tail, if it looks most like its owner or is the cutest puppy.

Mike Lade from Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Club said: "We will have charity stalls, a walking raffle and a barbecue on the field to make it a fun time for all."

"There is no entry fee to the field or for parking, just a £1.50 charge per dog per class for any of the nine classes with a free entry for any dog entered in the nine classes for the judges final class for Best in Show."

"Free parking is at The Last Inn at Upper Hengoed, SY10 7EU."

"The show field is just a short walk from there."

"Registration starts on the field at 11am and the show starts at 12pm till 3pm."

"For enquiries or more details about the classes etc and a downloadable registration form, go to the clubs own web site."

"If your pet charity or business would like to have a stall or stand on the field then please get in touch."

"The Oswestry Cambrian Club is ready to welcome men and women from all professions, businesses and the local community."

"We meet informally at The Wynn-stay Hotel, Church Street, Oswestry on Thursday evenings."

"For more information come along to hear what our new style of Rotary has to offer or contact (01691) 650854 or info@oswestrycambrianrc.co.uk."



Julian Sandy, Russ Montgomery and Louise Crawford, and, front, Fiona James and Jay Moore launch the show club supported projects." Members of the Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Club and dog owners recently got together to launch the Ruffs Fun Dog Show. Among the people at the launch of

Perch fall led to death of osprey Ceri

A POST-mortem has revealed that a much-loved osprey hatched at a Mid Wales centre that died recently failed to recover after falling off her perch shortly after her maiden flight.

Ceri, an eight-week-old female chick, fell from a larch perch at Dyfi Osprey Centre, near Machynlleth, three days before she died.

Thousands of people from across the world had been glued to the centre's website and Facebook page to watch the arrival of the birds in the spring, mating, egg laying and hatching of the young osprey.

A spokesman for the centre, run by Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, said it appeared that Ceri was injured in the fall and although she managed to fly back to the nest, never recovered. Emyr Evans, of the Dyfi Osprey Project, said: "We collected Ceri's body back from the Cambrian Veterinary Centre."

"The post-mortem shows signs of trauma sustained to left side of the bird with soft tissue swelling, affecting the upper part of the left wing and left upper leg. These injuries would have been sustained in the fall and taken one to two days for the inflammation and bruising to peak."

"It now looks beyond reasonable doubt that Ceri died due to the shock from the injuries she sustained following her fall. We buried her on Cors Dyfi Reserve."

"Ceri was a strong, healthy osprey and at 54-days-old, out of thousands of decisions she took that day, she made one seemingly insignificant and innocuous call – she decided to roost not on her nest but on a perch for the first time having taken to the air just two days before."

"The talons of a bird of prey have a mechanism whereby they can 'lock-on' to a perch. Maybe this locking mechanism failed somehow as Ceri made micro-adjustments on the perch. We had to think about Ceri's brother Tegid too of course."

"He hadn't even fledged when Ceri first fell off the perch and returned to it the following morning."

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New lease of life for old churches

Report by Sue Austin

TWO former Methodist churches in Shropshire villages are to be given a new lease of life after being sold at a collective property auction in Shrewsbury.

Edgerley and Melverley Methodist Churches, both near Shrewsbury, eclipsed their guide prices at auctioneers Halls' seven-lot auction at the company's Battlefield headquarters.

Both churches were described by Halls' director and auctioneer Allen Gittins as having great potential for a variety of alternative usages, subject to planning consent.

"Former churches in village locations always seem to capture the imagination in Shropshire and the Marches and both these properties have interesting original features, which added to their charm," he said.

"We were delighted with the prices achieved at the auction and with the huge interest they generated." Edgerley Methodist Chapel, which had a guide price of £5,000 to £10,000, sold for £54,000. The former church is situated just outside the hamlet of Pentre, close to the village of Kinnerley and within 11 miles of both Shrewsbury and Oswestry.

Constructed as a primitive Methodist Church (Jubilee Chapel) in 1860, the building was extended in around 1920 and the 1960s.

Original features included timber panelled walls, a raised timber seating area/stage to front and windows with part stained glass work.

The accommodation comprised an entrance lobby, kitchen and main church.

Dating to 1865, Melverley Method-



Melverley Methodist Church has been sold at auction

ist Church, which had a guide price of £15,000 to £20,000, found a buyer for £61,000.

Attractively situated in the centre of the rural hamlet of Melverley, the former church had many interesting internal features, including a vaulted

ceiling with possibly enough height for a second floor, arched metal windows and a raised altar area.

Outside there was an 'L' shaped area of grass to the front and side of the building with potential for a parking area, garage and gardens.

Superb Festool range is feature of big open day



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The Festool Power Tool range will be the feature of an open day at Griffiths Hire Shops

Griffiths Hire Shops in Oswestry will be showcasing the Festool Power Tool range at its open day, which will be held on Thursday, August 18 from 10am to 2pm.

Staff at Griffiths Hire Shops along with Festool representative Chad Grainger will be on hand to demonstrate the tools and give a great overview of the entire Festool range. Festool tools have been manufactured in Germany since 1925 and are sold on every continent across the world.

Commercial feature

The Festool philosophy of "things work better when everything fits together" can clearly be seen in the way all tools, accessories and consumables all connect together. In 2015 Festool launched their 18V cordless range of tools, a combination of new 5.2Ah high-performance battery packs with brushless EC-TEC motors guaranteeing excellent results every time. Since January 2015 the portfolio of 18V tools has expanded and January 2016 saw the launch of Festool's first

worksite Radio, the SYSROCK BR 10.

On registering a tool for its warranty, the customer automatically receives a full three-year warranty on all wearable parts in the machine, as well as theft protection for both the worksite and van, spare parts availability and a 15-day money-back guarantee if you are not completely satisfied with the tool.

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Theatre in hunt for panto talent

THEATRE Severn, in partnership with Evolution Pantomimes, is looking for girls to be part of the Juvenile Ensemble for its spectacular pantomime, Cinderella, which will run at the theatre this Christmas.

The audition will take place on September 12 at Theatre Severn. Registration is at 4.15pm for a 4.30pm start.

To audition youngsters must be between nine to 15 years old inclusive on September 1 and 5' 4" or shorter. The audition will take approximately 120 minutes but people may need to stay longer if they are successful. Children should bring water but no food or other drinks and be wearing comfortable clothes and soft/dance shoes. Girls will be taught a routine on the day.

Visit www.evolution-productions.co.uk for more information.

Launch of new app to fight crime

A NEW crime fighting app has been launched by police in Mid Wales.

Dyfed-Powys Police said its new community messaging system will be the basis of the DPCM app. It will give up-to-the-minute information about crime happening across the force area.

Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Pam Kelly, said: "This fast-time targeted messaging system is another tool on an officer's belt."

"DPCM enables us to send messages very quickly to people in specific locations and, when it comes to safely policing large events like the Royal Welsh, Wales Ironman and the Hay Festival for example, the system really comes into its own."

"If we become aware of a spate of crimes in a community, the app will enable us to send a message which will hit the phones of all those in the affected area. We can ask people to be alert to suspicious activity or use the system to undertake virtual house-to-house enquiries."

Double nomination delight for firm ahead of business awards

WELSHPOOL manufacturer Invertek Drives has landed a double nomination in this year's Powys Business Awards.

The company, which makes variable speed drives and has been expanding its facilities in recent years, is one of three finalists in the technology and innovation category, and will also be facing two other companies for the international trade award.

Invertek's sales and marketing director Rhidian Welson, said: "I am delighted that we have been shortlisted in two categories at this year's awards, both of which recognise our company's main strengths."

"Firstly, we put technology and innovation at the heart of everything we do and last year alone saw us design, manufacture and launch two innovative products – the Optidrive E3 and Optidrive Eco.

"However, innovation does not happen just once or twice a year at Invertek but rather on a daily basis through our customer-specific OEM product service that has already seen more than 40,000 variants specifically manufactured to meet their varied demands."

Secondly, in international trade, we now employ 190 people worldwide and some 90 per cent of the VFDs made at the Powys factory are exported to more than 80 countries at the moment, ensuring we are well on their way to achieving our £35 million annual sales forecast by 2018, and we are also investing in a new factory to increase our production."

"We are extremely proud to be recognised by the Powys Business Awards and would like to wish all other shortlisted companies the best of luck on the night," he added.

The company was also a double award winner at last year's ceremony,



Invertek Drives' headquarters at the Offa's Dyke Business Park in Welshpool

taking home the Powys business of the year award as well as the award for development of new markets in the UK or export.

The 2016 Powys Business Awards ceremony is taking place on September 30 at Infantry Battle School, Derwent Lines in Brecon.

This year's awards, which began in 2009, were launched in May at Llandrindod Wells' County Hall with sponsors and past finalists attending the event.

Councillor Avril York, Powys County Council's cabinet member for regeneration, said: "The Powys Business Awards are getting bigger and

bigger each year and we're delighted to continue supporting them.

"Not only do the awards provide an excellent opportunity for the county's businesses to raise their profiles, it gives us the chance to showcase their quality."

"The Powys Business Awards are now an important date in the business calendar."

"They are an excellent way of highlighting the range and expertise of the county's businesses and also they celebrate their success."

"With a range of new categories added this year, the awards are an opportunity for all businesses, social

enterprises and charities to compete for a chance to be a finalist no matter if they are large or small or if they are a new start-up or existing business."

Ceri Stephens, group manager for award organisers Mid Wales Manufacturing Group, said: "The Powys Business Awards provides a fantastic platform for businesses to raise their profile. Those who enter the awards are independently judged on their excellent standards."

The awards also provides a public forum where finalists can gather in the presence of other business leaders and their peers to celebrate their success on the night."

Rescue team sees spike in help pleas

A MOUNTAIN rescue team which covers an area popular with walkers from Mid Wales and Shropshire is on course for its busiest ever year after a huge spike in callouts.

Brecon Mountain Rescue Team, which covers the Brecon Beacons, said it received 23 calls for help in July alone – a quarter of the number of calls it receives in an average year.

The team said reports included those relating to missing people, injured mountain bikers and unconscious walkers.

Deputy team leader Mark Jones said he believed the surge in numbers of people getting into difficulties was linked to more people taking part in outdoor activities.

"The Storey Arms car park is packed with hikers almost every day now, whereas it used to only be on busy on bank holidays or sunny days," he said.

"You can't deny there are more people out enjoying the outdoors and I think it must be that. We analyse our statistics and generally, over the past 10 years, 60 per cent of the people we were called to rescue and search for were local to the area in which they had become lost or injured."

As of July 31, he said the team made up of volunteers, had received 74 callouts for the first half of the year. In June, a group of 26 schoolchildren who were reported to be missing in the Brecon Beacons during a Duke of Edinburgh exercise were found safe and well.

A major search and rescue operation was launched after concerns were raised that the children from St Albans, Hertfordshire, had vanished in dreadful weather conditions.

The team was set up in 1968 and usually has about 100 calls per year. Meanwhile, The South Snowdonia Search And Rescue Team currently averages around 50 callouts each year.

A spokesman said: "We handle 30 to 40 'alerts' which mainly deal with overdue or lost walkers – most of which can be dealt with by mobile phones."

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College heartache for young Jessica

Report by Sue Austin

LIKE most young people Jessica Henstone loves the freedom that being away from home while studying at college gives her.

But Jessica, 23, has been told that she will be unable to return to her residential course at Derwen College in Shropshire, in September, instead having to attend as a day student.

The college in Gobowen specialises in courses for teenagers and young people with special needs and was recently found to be outstanding by education inspectors.

Jessica has Down's Syndrome and is half way through her two-year course in which she has been living, working and learning at Derwen College.

She and her family say Shropshire Council's decision to discontinue the residential aspect will affect the whole family. Jessica's parents, Chris and Angie Henstone, who live in Oswestry, adopted six children with Down's Syndrome, Jessica, the eldest. They also have two sons, Dan, 31 and Tom, 29.

Dan said: "My parents have dedicated their life to making sure all my siblings have the best lives possible. This of course is not an easy task. Jessica and her brother Julian currently live at Derwen College. My parents still have four of my siblings at home, all of whom have varying behavioural, mobility and at time serious health needs."

He said Jessica has strong social ties at the college. "Unfortunately a couple of months ago, her social worker said the council wouldn't fund Jessica to continue her course and would be pulling her from her course and residential placement.



Jessica has been told she can only be a day student at Derwen College

"Their argument for this was her lack of progress in her independent living skills." Dan said that the initial suggestion for his sister's future was social housing with some support from a personal assistant. He said: "Their solution now is for Jessica to return to living with my parents. She is 23 years old next month and returning to living with my parents is not a forward step in her independent living skills."

Louise Keevil, director of charity and corporate services at Derwen College, said: "We are confident all young people who have benefited from

a residential placement have more experience in independence living skills and develop into young people able to make more of their own choices.

"It is always our expectation students will live a more independent life when they leave college. Residential placements provide an holistic programme of work skills, health and well-being and independence providing the skills for young people to make choices and live as independent lives as possible."

Shropshire Council said it was unable to comment on individual cases.

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Mark Fosbrook with Kris Kulej, Simon Papazyen, Sophie Foulkes and Poppy Williams at the Marches School in Oswestry



Luke Carter, Kieran Lockyer, Charlie Jones and Oscar Shaw with lecturer Paul Clark



Uniformed public services students Oscar Shaw and Kieran Lockyer

Students kept busy



The North Shropshire College group kayak on the lake



Health and social care students, back from left, Fiona Coles, Emily Haycocks, Dani Wilde, Lydia Griffiths, and, front, Charlotte Pearce, Sydney Ador, Imogen Hawkes and Ruth Lewis



College students Jasmine Kirkham and Jade Hughes

YOUNGSTERS at schools and colleges around the Oswestry area have been busy taking part in various activities in recent weeks.

Students at The Marches School in Oswestry welcomed British wheelchair basketball player Mark Fosbrook, who lives in Whittington.

He gave a talk to students of all ages to inspire and motivate them.

Mr Fosbrook talked about both his life and sporting career and what motivated him to get where he is now. He said he realised early on in his life that sport was an ideal platform to show that his disability did not stop him from achieving and from that moment he has dedicated his life to sport. The athlete has two fingers on each hand and is a double below knee amputee. Students heard Mr Fosbrook plays many sports and has numerous coaching qualifications that run alongside his achievements.

Report by Naomi Penrose

He now plays wheelchair basketball and is currently part of the British Wheelchair Basketball squad and trained for selection for the senior team for London. The athlete plays club basketball for the Wolverhampton Rhinos Super League and National League Division 1 teams.

He is classified as a one point player which means he has the most severe level of disability on court.

After his talk he answered a number of questions asked by the students and then had photos taken with them and his gold medal. Among the students to meet him were Kris Kulej, Simon Papazyen, Sophie Foulkes and Poppy Williams.

Year 10 student Charlotte Griffiths said: "It's really inspiring that Mark can play so many sports. Although he has a disability he has shown that you can do anything if you work hard. Listening to Mark has made me

feel motivated and want to succeed". Meanwhile, North Shropshire College students who are studying outdoor adventure sport and uniformed public services have recently completed their two star award in canoeing and kayaking. The students undertook the exam at the lake on the Walford Campus, with Andy Turton owner of Ty Nant Outdoors, who is an experienced canoeist and kayaker and has visited the lake on numerous occasions. Students spent the day on the lake, experiencing a variety of river sections and skills in both canoes and kayaks. The award helps the students to develop fundamental paddle-sport skills on flat water.

The emphasis of the day was to give students a breadth of experience and to understand how the paddle, boat and water interact.

Patrick McBride, outdoor adventure lecturer, said: "Students have been very excited about Andy coming in for a few weeks now. Achieving the two star award will mean that they are efficient canoeists and kayakers and

can aim for future awards to enable them to teach."

And other uniformed public services students recently went on a two-day trip to Snowdonia National Park. The trip formed part of their assessment as they had to plan and execute each part. The students stayed on Tryfan, one of the most rugged and spectacular mountains in Snowdonia and popular for its rugged climbs and ridges.

The students walked and scrambled up the south face of Tryfan and camped overnight, they all made it to the famous Adam and Eve Rocks at the top. Paul Clark, uniformed public services and sport lecturer, said: "The students planned this trip impeccably.

"They made their own camp and cooked their own food, they even coped well when the weather turned from a beautiful May evening into one of the worst storms."

It has been a fantastic year for the level three health and social care students at the college. They have all achieved hard earned qualifica-

tions that will take them on to university and into much coveted employment in this sector.

All of the students who made applications to universities around the country have been successful and will now be packing their bags for pastures new at the end of the academic year.

There have been other students who have been seeking work and have been highly successful in gaining employment in the local area, and there are three students who will be off on their world travels taking a gap year to gain some worthwhile life experience.

Two North Shropshire College beauty students recently competed at the World Skills UK competitions. Jasmine Kirkham, a level three spa therapy student, and Jade Hughes, level two beauty therapy student, competed at the regional competitions held at Coleg Cambria. The pair competed in the beauty, hands and face element of the competition. There was tough competition on the day and Jasmine was able to win third place for beauty hands and face.

Spacious home in an attractive edge of village location

Sunnyside at Criftins near Ellesmere, is a property in an attractive semi rural edge of village location with spacious, well appointed accommodation and well maintained grounds.

It is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £365,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing, it has an entrance hall, two reception rooms, a breakfast kitchen, utility, four bedrooms and two bathrooms (one a newly fitted downstairs and family bathroom) and gardens with a summerhouse, shed and ample parking.

It is in an ideal location for walking or riding and enjoys views across adjoining fields. Sunnyside has spacious and comfortable accommodation, with double glazing and gas fired central heating.

The entrance hall has stairs off and an under-stairs storage cupboard. The kitchen has sliding patio doors to patio area and gardens.

Bathroom one has a newly fitted white suite comprising an "Xavier" luxury steam shower cubicle, heated towel rail, wall and floor tiling and electric under floor heating.

An office/old utility has wall and base units, double drainer stainless steel sink unit with cupboard under, radiator and a door. This a spacious versatile room which was formerly the old kitchen and leads through to the utility room. The present owners use it as an office.

The current utility has wall and base units, tiled floor, plumbing for a washing machine, space for dryer, fridge/freezer and a door to the rear.

Upstairs, the landing has a leaded light window to the front overlooking the garden and countryside. Bedroom one overlooks the rear, as does bedroom two. There is an inner landing and a family bathroom with a white suite including both a bath and shower cubicle.

Bedroom three has windows to both the front and rear.

Outside, the property occupies a semi-rural position down a private stoned driveway leading to the rear of the property with ample car parking, turning area and carport. The attractive gardens to the side of the driveway sweep round to the front.=

KEY FEATURES

Edge of village location
Spacious
Well maintained grounds
4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms
Attractive gardens

CRIFTINS £365,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: JJ Dell & Co

TEL: 01691 653437

EMAIL: property@jjdell.co.uk



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**Contact: Michael Tomley FRICS on
T: 01691 659595**

Belgrave House, 15 Salop Road, Oswestry,
Shropshire, SY11 2NR
E: m.tomley@dpasurveys.co.uk
www.dpasurveys.co.uk



Five bedroomed home has superb views of countryside

LLANFECHAIN
£400,000

A detached five bedroomed country property with outstanding views, Bryn Paenod, Llanfechain, is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £400,000.

The property is situated in a large garden and has been extensively refurbished by the current owners to a high standard throughout.

Bryn Paenod is a detached property principally built of stone under a slated roof.

The accommodation is well appointed throughout with oil fired central heating and upvc double glazing, pine and oak boarded country style doors.

Accommodation comprises kitchen, drawing room, sun room, lounge, library, study, cloakroom, five bedrooms and two bathrooms.

There is double garaging, a good sized garden and



the property is in a private position.

The property offers the opportunity to be split to provide separate living accommodation.

Bryn Paenod is approached over a private roadway leading to a wide stone forecourt, block and slated garage/workshop with two up and over doors.

The property stands in a good sized south facing garden having the benefit of a rear decked patio offering extensive views across the adjoining fields, woodland and valley.

Bryn Paenod is approximately two miles from the village of Llansantffraid with its local facilities including shop, post office, primary school, public house, petrol station, and is approximately 12 miles from the border market town of Oswestry.

For more information contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



Home sits within walking distance of amenities in popular town

LLANFAIR CAEREINION
£225,000 >>>

A detached period family home, Gwynfa, Watergate Street, Llanfair Caereinion is on the market through Halls for £225,000.

The home is within convenient walking distance of the town amenities.

The well-presented accommodation, part of which has been in commercial use in the past, briefly comprises porch, sitting room, dining kitchen, garden room together with large office, studio, boot room/utility and WC on the ground floor. Upstairs there are four spacious en-suite bedrooms, three with dual aspect windows overlooking town and countryside. With the exception of the office window, which is thought to date back to the 1930s, there is double glazing to all windows. There is a secure, established private garden to rear and sides.

There is ample off-road parking in the adjacent town car park.

Contact Halls on 01938 555552.



Farmhouse enjoys views across the Ceiriog Valley

PANDY
£545,000 <<<

A detached farmhouse with a 2.9 acre paddock, Pont Y Meibion, Llanarmon Road, Pandy, comes with four bedrooms, a lounge with an inglenook fireplace and views across Ceiriog Valley.

Also having a substantial range of two storey Grade II listed slate former agricultural buildings with conversion potential, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £545,000. It also has a substantial second two storey stone building, ancillary timber and stone build stores and open fronted secure implement/vehicle store. Pont Y Meibion comprises of a detached farmhouse affording four bedrooms, lounge with inglenook fireplace, kitchen/breakfast room, oil-fired central heating and UPVC double glazing.

Set in an elevated site off the road, it also has a large concrete yard approached via the sloping drive fronting the property.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595.

Views from highly attractive countryside cottage are outstanding

RHIWLAS
£360,000 >>>

An attractive three-bedroomed detached country cottage in 1.7 acres within the picturesque hamlet of Rhiwlas seven miles from Oswestry, Tyn Y Celyn has outstanding views over unspoilt countryside.

With a privately owned driveway, it is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson with offers in the region of £360,000.

Accommodation comprises an entrance hall, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, cloakroom, three bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Outside there is a range of outbuildings including a double garage/workshop, a barn and wash room. The property stands in mature gardens with an adjoining paddock ideal for agriculture, equine or recreational uses.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk



Charming three bedroom cottage in a hamlet location

GRIMPO, WEST FELTON
£350,000

Situated in the rural hamlet of Grimpo to the north-east of West Felton, Holly Cottage is a charming three-bedroomed detached cottage with many original features and beamed ceilings.

Also featuring a large sandstone inglenook and having stunning countryside views, it is for sale through Town & Country at £350,000.

Accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, downstairs bedroom with an en-suite, a landing, two further bedrooms and a family bathroom. The generous front garden has a flagged paved patio with extensive lawns beyond, a greenhouse, a pergola and wooden sheds. To the rear of the cottage there is gravelled parking for up to four vehicles, an oil tank area and brick built workshops. In more detail it has an entrance hall through to the kitchen and then the dining room. The lounge has a part glazed door to the front overlooking the garden.

The dining room has tiled flooring and patio doors



to the conservatory. The kitchen has base and wall units with oak work surfaces over. Bedroom one has a window to the side with a quarry tiled sill, a beamed ceiling and an en-suite including a contemporary roll top style bath with an electric shower over. The conservatory has a hardwood frame, tiled flooring and a contemporary radiator.

The first floor landing has a beamed ceiling and oak flooring. Bedroom two has a built-in cupboard and a beamed ceiling. Bedroom three has windows with quarry tiled sills and a beamed and vaulted ceiling. There is also a shower room including a corner cubicle and heated towel rail and full tiled walls.

Contact Town and Country for more details on 01691 679631.



Exceptionally appointed home sits in a superb rural position

PORTH-Y-WAEN
£274,500 <<<

An exceptionally well appointed country property, Station House, Porth-y-Waen near Oswestry, has double garaging and workshop as well as a garden and small separate paddock.

The home is on the market through JJ Dell&Co for £274,500.

The property benefits from double glazing and central heating and has two good sized reception rooms.

There is a breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, ensuite and bathroom.

There is ample car parking, a large double garage and an attractive garden as well as a small adjoining grass paddock.

The property is situated on the outskirts of Porth-y-Waen occupying a rural position convenient to travelling to Pant village with its shop and post office and primary school.

For more details contact JJ Dell&Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.





Equity release hits £0.5bn for first quarter on record

Some £8.2 million of housing wealth was withdrawn in the UK every working day in the second quarter of 2016 as equity release lending passed £0.5 billion for the first quarter on record.

Overall there was £514.4 million of lending in quarter two, up 34% year on year and 58% higher than in the second quarter of 2014, according to the latest figures from the Equity Release Council.

The council report points out that the three busiest quarters for equity release lending have all come within the last 12 months and the annual rise in the number of new plans agreed is the fastest seen in 13 years.

Common uses for equity release include paying off existing mortgages and loans, providing extra retirement income, funding home improvements or care related adaptations, paying for travel or other one off expenses, and gifting money to family members as a 'living inheritance'.

The council also says that over 55s' increased appetite to use housing wealth has been supported by market developments which include new providers and increasing choice of products and features emerging. In addition, the market received support from the regulator in April when they amended the legislation to allow optional interest repayments to be exempt from mortgage affordability rules.

Year on year, the council's figures show the biggest percentage growth in the value of lending in the second quarter of the year was for lump sum lifetime mortgages, typically involving a larger release of housing wealth in a single payment, up 37% or £56.8 million compared to the second quarter of 2015.

However, lending via drawdown lifetime mortgages, allowing consumers to make multiple withdrawals of equity as and when needed, continued to account for the larger share of the market, growing 31% or £72.4 million to £304 million compared to the second quarter of 2015.

Home reversion plans also experienced a rise in the second quarter of 2016 with the total value of activity more than doubling year on year from £623,647 in the second quarter of 2015 to £1.5 million. Looking at new customers' product choices, some 67% opted for drawdown products in the second quarter, up from 65% a year earlier, while the share of lump sum products dipped slightly from 35% to 33%. With market activity having grown significantly during that time, the number of new drawdown plans agreed was up 27% year on year compared with 16% for lump sum plans.

Overall, it meant the total volume of new plans agreed across the whole market was up 23% year on year, the highest annual growth rate in nearly 13 years since the third quarter of 2003. The 6,671 new plans agreed was the largest quarterly total since the fourth quarter of 2008.

"These figures are the latest sign that UK home owners increasingly see housing wealth as a fundamental part of their retirement funding plans. The long term rise of house prices has allowed many older homeowners to build up considerable reserves of housing equity, which have the potential to solve many of the financial challenges facing the UK's ageing population," said Nigel Waterson, chairman of the Equity Release Council.

Tips to get your property ready for sale this summer

House sellers are being encouraged to get their properties market-ready in time for the traditional summer peak of activity.

In 2015, August 10 was the busiest day of the year for house hunters browsing properties on website Rightmove, with more than 43 million page views recorded.

TV property expert Sarah Beeny said during the summer holiday period when many people have time off work, a seller's property may be seen by a much larger number of people than usual, boosting the chances of multiple viewings and a sale.

She said: "Lots of people put their houses on the market around this time of year, so you really do need to go the extra mile to make your property stand out from the crowd."

Disruption

But this year has seen some disruption to the housing market – and with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) recently saying that the number of potential house hunters has fallen back at the fastest rate since 2008, some house sellers may find they have to work harder this summer to show their property off to its best and achieve the price they want.

The disruption has been partly caused by a stamp duty hike for buy-to-let investors from April 1, which prompted a rush of investors snapping up homes earlier in the early months of 2016, rather than leaving their purchases until later on in the year.

The EU referendum vote has also caused uncertainty, with the British Bankers' Association (BBA) saying this week that the number of mortgage approvals made to home buyers in June was down by 11%

compared with June 2015. However, the BBA has cautioned against putting too much emphasis on its June figures as a sign of how the economy is performing after the Brexit vote.

Here are some tips from Beeny to help sellers make the most of summer housing market activity:

- Give your garden some TLC. Make sure all bushes and trees are trimmed, de-weed and mow your lawn, and make sure patios, paths and decking are moss-free and clean. Brightly-coloured flowers in pots and borders also help to cheer up a garden, further adding appeal.

Sunlight

- Make the most of the natural light that streams into your property in summer. Get rid of blinds and dark curtains that block light out and strategically place mirrors in places that will reflect sunlight to make rooms seem even brighter. Lightly-coloured decor and furnishings will also help create a livelier, brighter space. Open windows ahead of viewings to let in plenty of fresh air.

- People buy into certain lifestyles, and perfect summer living is one of them. If you have French doors leading out to the garden, make a feature of them. And turn your garden or yard into a summertime oasis with colourful garden furniture, a barbecue, outdoor fairy lights and potted plants.

- When the sun is shining, dirt on windows can really show up, so remember to make your windows sparkle and give the best impression of your property.



Sales to first time buyers increased in run-up to referendum

Buyers in the UK seemed largely unperturbed in the run up to the European Union referendum in June with sales to first time buyers increasing.

According to the latest monthly report from the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA) demand for housing increased as well while supply of available properties and the number of sales going through were stable.

However, immediately following the result to leave the EU, agents witnessed uncertainty from sellers, and supply fell momentarily.

Overall in June, estate agents saw an increase in demand which the NAEA says suggests that buyers weren't fazed by the risk of Brexit in the lead up to the vote. There were an average 330 house hunters registered per member branch last month, up 9% from May when 304 buyers were registered, the lowest number recorded since November 2013.

However, although June saw growth in the number of prospective buyers, demand still remains low in comparison to June last year.

Meanwhile, some 57% of agents reported a drop in demand from prospective buyers and 58% saw supply fall in the week immediately following the vote. However, it is expected this will level out in July.

First time buyers in particular were not impacted by the Brexit result. Immediately following the result only 28% of NAEA agents witnessed uncertainty from this group of buyers, while 30% of total house sales in June were made to first time buyers, the highest number of sales since October last year.

The Brexit vote did not affect the number sales that completed in June either, with a total of eight sales



completing per branch last month, a figure which has not shifted from May. Further to this, the supply of available housing also remained the same with an average of 37 properties registered per member branch in June.

"In periods of extreme political and economic uncertainty, the housing market will always respond. However, it's a relief to see that looking at the whole month overall, buyers were still keen to buy, sellers were still keen to sell and sales were still going through at the same level as we'd expect," said Mark Hayward, NAEA managing director.

"It's only natural that immediately following the vote supply fell but our figures show that the lead up to the vote wasn't all doom and gloom, which should be a good indication of the months to come," he explained.

"We remain upbeat and need others in the industry to do so as well.

"The new Housing Minister confirming his commitment to building £1 million new homes will be encouraging for many buyers, especially those looking to buy their first home. Hopefully we should soon see housing market confidence bouncing back to the levels seen pre-Brexit," he added.

UK's soaring success story

GRANTED there hasn't been an overwhelming expanse of sunny, blue sky to look up toward in the Salopian summer thus far but it is a time nonetheless to do so. For August is a month where things calm down a little in the wildlife calendar.

The frantic antics of spring are over and the trees take on a more uniform, waxy green and start to look a little tired. If the sun does come out, its effect is one of wilting those leaves rather than giving them life as it did earlier in the year.

Although some birds will be nesting repeat broods, many have finished and are in hiding due to the annual moult.

However in that theoretical clear, blue sky, there are one or two species that exalt at this time of the year.

For the young of buzzards and red kites, midsummer is a time for aerial displays, toning their enormous wings and honing their hunting skills. Wheeling high above, their screaming calls and mewings can be heard over many a valley and field and it is both a wondrous sight and thrilling sound.

The reintroduction of the red kite to England and Scotland has been one of the major conservation success stories of the last 20 years.

In the early 1930s, only two breeding pairs of red kites were known to survive in the British Isles, both in central Wales.

In a marked contrast to many of our tales of wildlife woe, the plight of the red kite was not one associated with habitat loss and destruction. It is, after all, a creature linked to carrion of most kinds and in most places, rather than a specific habitat.

ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams



Careful protection of the Welsh kites helped the native population increase slowly, with 20 breeding pairs in 1967, 30 in 1978, 50 in 1988 and 80 in 1992.

The re-introductions succeeded because the original (and changing) habitat was able to support a healthy population. The birds had been exterminated because of persecution, rather than the loss of the aforementioned locale.

Today the Welsh population is thought to number between 750 and 900 pairs. In 1992, after three years of being re-introduced into England, red kites started breeding there again.

Fledged

Interestingly the English birds did far better from the off. The 'English' kites started breeding at one year old, unlike Welsh birds that often don't breed until their third summer.

In addition, clutches were larger, with more young fledged per pair than in Wales.

Historically, the kite was associated with towns and cities; here it was valued as a scavenger, helping keep streets clean. But today, in the Chilterns, the kites' enthusiasm for carrion is valued by deerstalkers, who leave the entrails from shot deer for the kites to clean up.

In addition to this, their list of modern feeding habits is topped by road-casualty pheasants, rabbits and squirrels which form an important part of their diet.



Master of the Skies – pen and ink drawing by Ben Waddams

Thanks to the tireless work of conservationists, Britain's kite population is now booming and more and more of these birds are being seen in Shropshire, helped both by the original Welsh population and the re-introductions.

Yet this is not the case in many other Eu-

ropean countries, where numbers are generally in sharp decline.

It is thought that Britain's kite population could eventually reach around 50,000 pairs. That would truly be a feather in our cap, for it would represent more than double the current world population.

Visit benwaddams.com

Council stance on A&E controversy disappoints MP

MP Daniel Kawczynski has criticised Tory colleagues on Shropshire Council for failing to back a campaign to keep an A&E unit in Shrewsbury.

He praised Shrewsbury Town Council for going it alone in its decision to fight to keep the emergency unit in the town.

The Shrewsbury and Atcham MP said people need to display "iron resolve" over the issue.

He said the town council's decision to launch a campaign to retain A&E services at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital with a public rally was to be applauded.

The Conservative MP said that despite his political differences with Labour councillor Alan Mosley, leader of Shrewsbury Town Council, he welcomed the decision.

He said: "As you know the town council's leader is of a different political persuasion to myself but I applaud the action they have taken and I was disappointed that Shropshire Council was not able to pass a resolution to defend A&E at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, when you bear in mind how strong Telford & Wrekin Council has been in its resolve in making sure A&E services are protected at Telford.

"We need a strong demonstration of our iron resolve for A&E services to remain at Shrewsbury."

A&E services in the county face an uncertain future with the Future Fit reorganisation of Shropshire's health services and two main hospitals recommending the creation of one emergency centre.

Mr Kawczynski said that he believed Shropshire Council should have at least adopted a motion which called for both of the county's hospitals to retain A&E units.

He said: "I was very glad that they have passed the resolution and I was disappointed with Shropshire Council, at the very least they should have said there should be two A&E services in Shropshire."

"If they do not want to favour Telford over Shropshire that second caveat of fighting for two A&Es would be a sensible alternative."

The MP said it would be unacceptable for RSH to lose its A&E unit.

He said: "My view is that Shrewsbury has to have A&E services and that means one of two things. Either both continue to have them or they are centred at Shrewsbury. Those two options I would be content with but it would be wholly unacceptable if Shrewsbury was to lose A&E services."

Councillor Alan Mosley said Shrewsbury Town Council will launch its campaign in the autumn after securing a venue for the rally.

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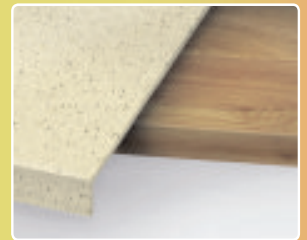
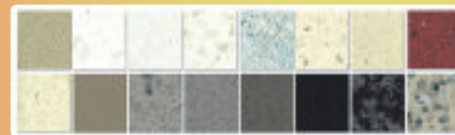
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Concerns rise at ambulance waiting times

AMBULANCE staff lost a total of 393 hours waiting to transfer patients at Shropshire's two main hospitals in June.

The situation has deteriorated severely at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, where the time paramedics were forced to wait in queues has trebled compared to the same month last year.

The figures, recorded by ambulance staff waiting at the RSH and Telford's Princess Royal Hospital, equate in total to 33 12-hour shifts.

Paramedics waiting in queues could instead have attended a potential 164 of the most serious 'red calls'.

Figures for June this year reveal 278 waiting hours for paramedics at RSH and 115 at PRH.

That compares to June 2015, when 90 hours were lost in queues at RSH and 71 at PRH.

The statistics were revealed at Shropshire Council's health and adult social care scrutiny committee.

Julie Davies of Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group told the committee the situation at RSH "gives us cause for concern". She said she was worried that infrastructure at the hospital was unable to deal with a high number of ambulances at one time.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust is campaigning for one of the two A&E departments to close to enable a single department that can attract the staff needed to run a casualty department efficiently. It has also warned that a short-term A&E closure may be needed if consultant levels drop.

The committee was told that the hospitals had been designed to cope with up to five ambulances an hour, but that they had been faced with up to 14.

Council faces £14million gap

SHROPSHIRE Council still has to find another £14 million to bridge its funding gap for the next financial year.

The authority said its decision to give town and parish councils a further 12 months to consider whether to take on closure threatened services would contribute to the gap, which it says is forecast to increase to £20 million in 2018/19.

The funding gap is the difference in the amount of income the council has and the amount it needs to spend to provide its services.

Council leader Malcolm Pate had announced that the authority had found "a little bit of money" to give the services, which include leisure centres, museums, and parks, a stay of execution.

James Walton, head of finance, said extra funding would need to be found to pay for the services, and would be done through "one-off" and "short-term" initiatives - likely to be the use of council reserves and by selling off valuable land.

He said: "In response to what 'a little bit on money' means, this can be interpreted as the council moving ever closer to closing the £14m funding gap in 2017/18.

"The financial strategy, which was agreed by cabinet and now council, has set out what savings we can deliver in base budget."

Caution given to illegal voter

A MAN has been given a police caution for impersonating someone else at the ballot box.

The man, who has not been named, but is from Montgomeryshire, committed an offence of "personation" under election legislation when he pretended to be someone else while voting in the EU referendum.

Personation is a term used in law for a specific kind of voter fraud, where an individual votes in an election, whilst pretending to be a different elector.

Polling station staff said they knew the real person and realised that the voter who turned up at the booth was an imposter and reported the matter to Dyfed-Powys Police.

Detective Constable Robert Seymour, of the force's fraud team, said: "Members of the public must be aware that it is illegal to vote by pretending to be someone else, even if they've been asked to do it as a favour by the person they are pretending to be."

Plenty of community spirit at Rhiwlas summer fair



Emily-Ann Evans and her younger sister Jessica did well in the children's competitions

TRUE community spirit was once again on display at the recent Rhiwlas Summer Fair with people of all ages from throughout the area enjoying the fun.

Resident Gwenan Griffiths said the event brought the community together. She said:

"Yet again the annual summer fair was blessed with lovely weather and many locals gathered at Rhiwlas Community Centre to socialise and relax. There were stalls, a bouncy castle, refreshments, raffle, children's sport, the Gyrn Gallop mountain race as well as competition



Cadi Davies and her younger sister Nansi were prize winners at Rhiwlas Fair

classes." The fair allowed children in the area to show off their artistic skills. Emily-Ann Evans won a first prize for her "house for a mouse" design and a "funny vegetable animal" and her younger sister Jessica was equal first in this competition.

Manon Griffiths won for a collage of "my home" and Cadi Davies won a first prize for her "garden on a plate" while her younger sister Nansi won a prize for her decorated fairy cakes. Alis Evans won the open section with a painting of "the countryside".

Changes made at the top of town's rotary organisations



Borderland Rotary president John Croft, president elect Sherie Soper and Stan Smith

Report by Naomi Penrose

THERE has been plenty of changes at rotary clubs in the Oswestry area in recent weeks.

Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club president Stan Smith came to the end of his year in office.

He addressed a packed meeting at the Sweeney Hall Hotel telling the members how much he had enjoyed his year as president and recommending the experience to any who are offered the chance to follow him. The new president is John Croft.

He presented the badge of president elect to Sherie Soper.

There have been changes of leadership at the Rotary Club of Oswestry too recently. Mike Griffiths handed over the club's presidency to Ian Haigh.

Moving straight into his new job, Mr Haigh's first task as president was to welcome new club member Justin Soper.

The Rotary Club of Oswestry was recently presented with a display board to use at its many varied events.

Mark Dodson-Wells, managing partner at RDW Exhibition, was pleased to be able to donate the boards to the club.

The equipment was presented by Lucy Palmer from RDW Exhibitions to Hazel Yates.

Meanwhile, the Borderland Rotary Club enjoyed a very entertaining talk at a recent meeting when club member Paul Wapshot introduced his son-in-law David Stout.

Club members heard that Mr Stout's story began as head chorister at Westminster Abbey Choir School.

Mr Stout is now a full time freelance opera singer with a worldwide reputation.

He said he was endeavouring to promote opera to all people as a community art form. He will be touring from September.



David Stout with Borderland Rotary president John Croft



Lucy Palmer from RDW Exhibitions presents Hazel Yates with the display board



Mike Griffiths, Justin Soper and Ian Haigh



Six teams battled it out for victory



St Martins Village FC vs Kinnerley



Supporters were on the touchline to cheer on players



The players battle it out for victory in the competition

Tournament a great tribute

A FOOTBALL tournament in memory of a 21-year-old who died from leukaemia is now into its fifth decade.

Report by Sue Austin

Teams from Oswestry and surrounding villages battled it out to take the Graham Edwards Memorial Trophy with the final place on the Gobowen playing fields on Sunday.

Supporters lined the touchline to watch St Martins Village football club beat Kinnerley 2-1 in extra time.

The tournament was founded in memory of Graham Edwards, a promising 21-year-old footballer from Gobowen who died from leukaemia.

The tournament was established in 1975, after Graham, who played for Gobowen and Weston Rhyn, died of the cancer 12 months before.

It is now one of the longest running charity tournaments in the country, with sons and even grandsons of players who played in the first tournament having competed in recent years.

One of the organisers, Andrew Faulks, said the charity would be presenting a cheque for

£6,150 to Leukaemia Research, money raised from the tournament and also from a recent fundraising night.

"Thanks must go to all the players and the spectators, as well as all those to volunteer during the tournament, from those to paint the white lines and put the nets up to those who prepare and serve refreshments," he said.

"Unfortunately two teams dropped out at the last minute so we only had six teams in the tournament."

He added: "I am confident we will have eight next year."

Fundraising will continue on September 2 with a sportsman's evening featuring footballer, Lee Sharpe and comedian Jed Stone.

The former Manchester United and Leeds United player, Lee Sharpe appeared on the celebrity Love Island TV series where he dated Abi Titmus.

The event at the Lion Quays include a dinner. Tickets are available from Andrew Faulks on 07854 742729.



The winners of the Junior Graham Edwards Memorial Trophy, Oswestry Boys Club



Winners St Martins Village FC celebrate victory



Ocean Flavell, aged 10, and Jessica Williams



A happy tractor driver and passenger



Nine-year-old young handler Hannah Hares, from Whitchurch

A WONDERFUL SHOW



A driver goes for a spin around the ground on his classic tractor



William Edwards with Jersey Breed Champions



Hard at work for the sheep shearing competition



Linzi Bradley with champion shirehorse Manor Perfection

THE sun shone on Oswestry Show, bringing out the crowds to one of Shropshire's biggest agricultural events.

The show was first established in 1817 and has since grown into one of the county's leading one-day events.

Families and people from an agricultural background were among the visitors to the event who were treated to a packed programme of entertainment at the showground on Saturday.

Among those who attended were Oswestry

Report by James Pugh

mayor Paul Milner and North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson, who helped with the judging.

Show chairman Malcolm Roberts said the event has retained its reputation as a traditional agricultural show – but now offers something for all the family. Benefitting from favourable weather, Mr Roberts anticipated visitor numbers to the show would once again reach up to 16,000.

"The weather is perfect, it couldn't have been better," he said, speaking at the show.

"It has been good weather to prepare for the show and even better weather for the show itself.

"We have had a record number of horticultural entries as well as sheep shearing entries.

"The quality of the trade stands is tremendous.

"Why it is so popular is because we have kept its agricultural routes. It remains very much an agricultural show.

"It is chance for the farming and non-farming community to get together, meet up with old friends and take a look at what is new

in the industry. This year we are celebrating British and local produce and urging visitors to ensure that the food they are buying is farmed in Britain.

"The show committee is leading the way by using local businesses or businesses who use local produce for its catering."

Popular

This year the main ring attractions at the show included the White Helmets Royal Signal Motorcycle Team and Bobb Hogg with his sheepdogs and ducks, while the Sir Watkins Williams Wynn Hunt introduced its pack of old English foxhounds to visitors.

Many trade stands were situated around the venue, with separate sections for craft and food.

Elsewhere on the field, from as early as 8.30am, visitors were able to enjoy watching the judging of horses, cattle, sheep, rare breeds and goats before heading off to see the popular sheep shearing competition.

Judges are engaged from all over the country to preside on the day.

The crowd gathered around the arena for the mass parade of winners for the livestock, and also the vintage cars and tractors.

During the day there was also a variety of



The stunt team puts on a show for the crowd



A classic with a trailer so the children can come along!



Daredevils the White Helmets Motorcycle display team

OF FUN FOR ALL FAMILY



Tractor drivers have a chat during one of the classes in the show ring at Oswestry



A whole host of classic tractors were on display for judges to cast their eye over. Judges included MP Owen Paterson.

entertainment on the village green, including face painting and magic for the younger generation, and for those who wished to sit and relax for a while, performances from Porthywaen Brass Band.

Visitors were able to take a look at the many entries in the horticultural marquee, with competitors from far and wide.

The small livestock and pet building was also a busy place where judging of poultry and pigeons was seen.

The show finale was a special version of the television show Total Wipeout organised by local Young Farmers Clubs.

A lot of Shropshire-based charities and groups were well represented at the show.

One of them was the Oswestry Men's Shed club which was set up in 2014.

Artist The club, which has 30 members, is based at Oswestry Showground.

Member Barry Jones said: "I used to come as a member of the public and think it is a brilliant show. It is one of the best shows this side of the county and they have made us very welcome here."

"We are open for people who want a chat and we do little projects."

One of the exhibitors at the show was artist Meg Hawkins, from Burwarton in south Shropshire.

She said: "I am a watercolour artist who is quite contemporary. This is my first time here and I have to say the venue is fantastic. Everything seems well spread out rather than feeling like you are on top of each other."

"I have been to other shows like Burwarton Show and small fetes."

"I find them really good as you get to meet new people and make some good contacts."

The show once again attracted a mix of local people as well as those who travelled

from outside the county. Among them was David Johnson, from Oswestry, who attended with his family.

"We have come here for the last few years and think it is great," he said.

"We come from an agricultural background so it is ideal for us."

"I enjoy seeing the machinery and livestock."

"It seems to be well organised, there is plenty to see and do, and obviously this year we are blessed with lovely weather."

Paul Greaves, from Shrewsbury, said: "It is our first time here and we have been very

impressed. We have been to similar shows and this is as good as the others."

"There is plenty to see and there is plenty for everyone."

"It is nice to see so many young families here as well. The weather is great which always helps attracts more numbers."

Mr Roberts, who is stepping down as show chairman after this year's event, said: "I want to say a big thank you to our neighbours who have offered us fields to use for the car parks as well as our volunteers. Without these people the show would not happen."

Cinema listings

THE CARER (15)



Very caring – 8/10

Hungarian immigrant Dorottya (Coco Konig) yearns to pursue a career in acting, so she seizes the opportunity to learn from one of the greats by filling the position of carer to irascible theatrical legend Sir Michael Gifford (Brian Cox). He has verbally abused and mistreated all of his former carers and Sir Michael's strong-willed daughter Sophia (Emilia Fox) is at her wit's end.

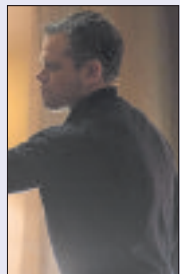
NERVE (15)



Stays strong – 7/10

Directors Henry Joost and Ariel Schulman, who made 2010 documentary Catfish, bring us this real-time thriller based on Jeanne Ryan's young adult novel. High school student Venus (Emma Roberts), is to turn down attending California Institute of the Arts because it would upset her mother Nancy (Juliette Lewis), who is still coming to terms with the death of her son.

JASON BOURNE (12A)



Bourne again – 9/10

Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) believes he knows how the US government moulded him into a trained killer as part of Operation Treadstone. Former contact Nicky Parsons (Julia Stiles) illegally accesses the CIA mainframe to download confidential files about Bourne's former life as David Webb. She discovers a shocking secret and resolves to share the data with the elusive operative.

THE BFG (PG)



Huge fun – 7/10

The heroine is a precocious orphan called Sophie (Ruby Barnhill), snatched from her bed at the witching hour by a hooded 24-feet tall figure. The behemoth spirits the girl to Giant Country, where he turns out to be big and friendly. A tender and deeply touching friendship is forged between Sophie and her kind-hearted abductor, who want to rid Giant Country of nasty man-gobblers.

Set a date to see this

Review by Susan Griffin

ANNA Kendrick has a theory as to why weddings make such great backdrops for comedies.

"I think it's weird when you get two different families together and a bunch of friends who've never met, and everyone's supposed to be on their best behaviour," muses the Pitch Perfect star. "Whenever people are supposed to be on their best behaviour, it's sort of a recipe for disaster."

Kendrick, 30, stars alongside Zac Efron, Adam DeVine and Aubrey Plaza in Mike And Dave Need Wedding Dates, a movie that not only celebrates all that can go wrong at wedding, but is based on a true event.

On February 13, 2013, the not-so-shy-and-retiring brothers Mike and Dave Stangle posted an advert online, in which they revealed they were seeking out dates for their sister's wedding.

Fed up with their usual flirty, drunken, chaos-inducing shenanigans, their family had demanded the duo invite respectable dates. Wary of giving the girls they knew the wrong idea – namely any indication they wanted to get serious – Mike and Dave decided to look for complete strangers instead. "We wrote it, kind of thinking it was a joke that we could send to each other," reveals Dave. They received thousands of responses and, after their ad went viral, even wound up on the likes of the Today show and CNN. A book titled Mike And Dave Need Wedding Dates: And A Thousand Cocktails, depicting tales from their adolescence as well as their musings on a range of topics, was later released – and now, here comes the movie.

In the film, Efron and DeVine play Dave and Mike respectively, while Kendrick and



Can the brothers be tamed at last or will they spoil their sister's big day?

Plaza play Alice and Tatiana, the women who charm their way onto the all-expenses paid trip on offer.

While the real-life wedding took place in North-East America, the film-makers decided to move the action to Hawaii.

"Zac and I arrived in Oahu two weeks before production started, and we didn't know anyone else there. Who else am I going to hang out with?" recalls DeVine, who also

starred with Kendrick in the Pitch Perfect movies. "We became the best of buds; by the end of production, we finished each other's sentences in a weird way."

The real-life brothers' reputation for partying proved well-deserved when they visited the set.

"They were always like, 'yo, let's go out tonight'," recalls Efron, 28, the former High School Musical star. "Adam and I would be

like, 'isn't it Tuesday? We have a 6am call time'."

DeVine first met them one late morning – and 'they were already drunk'.

"I was like, 'yeah okay, they're really going for it! They are these characters!'" recalls the 32-year-old, laughing.

"They were really cool and you could see why they would shoot a movie based loosely on their life."

Book reviews

THE HUEYS IN IT WASN'T ME

By Oliver Jeffers
Published by Harper
Collins



Now, I'm a big fan of Oliver Jeffers, but I struggle when it comes to the Hueys.

To be fair, they have developed into a best-selling series, so maybe I'm just missing the point, but other than the moral of each story there's nothing that grabs me as an adult, or my children, who are happy to see these books sit on the shelf gathering dust.

The good point of the Hueys is each book does have a message. The Hueys in the New Sweater teaches children

the important lesson of it's okay to be yourself while this one deals with fighting and arguing. Perhaps that is the point – they're not meant to be fun, but each one is an important life lesson.

By Derek Bish

KOOK

By Chris Vick
Published by Harper
Collins
Children's Books



A new author, a debut book, and what a roller-coaster of a read it is. Written for the older teenager or young adult, this is Sam's story. He's 15 and has relocated to the coast with his mother and sister.

Missing the city life, and all that was familiar to him, Sam meets surfer-girl Jade with whom he falls in love.

Jade teaches him to surf and Sam soon becomes not only very good at the sport but obsessed with finding

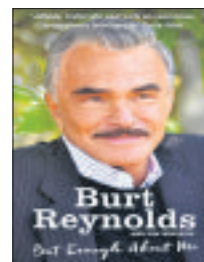
and riding a legendary wave that no-one else has ever conquered.

This leads to trouble with tragedy and heart-break threatening their happiness together. This is a startlingly good story.

By Sally Bunn

BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME

By Burt Reynolds and
Jon Winokur
Published by Blink



Born in 1936, Burt Reynolds has starred in more than 50 television shows and 80 films, including the iconic Deliverance and Smokey and the Bandit. Love him or hate him, he's had an interesting life and made headlines for both right and wrong reasons.

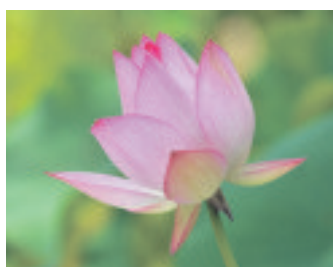
His first major role, launching an acting career of six decades, was in Angel Baby (1961) and after this it became apparent that his dark good looks and brooding personality would be in high demand.

The two great loves of his life were Dinah Shore and Sally Field, but his much publicised marriage to Lori Anderson was to cause him endless heartache.

By Leo Williams

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Superstar Justin Bieber will be strutting his stuff at the festival



Ricky Wilson of the Kaiser Chiefs will be entertaining the V Festival crowds

Major stars ready to take off at V Festival

SOME of the biggest names in rock and pop will take the stage when Weston Park hosts this year's V Festival.

The grounds of the stately home near Shifnal will host performances from some of the biggest global names in music.

Justin Bieber and Rihanna will be the headline acts on August 20 and August 21 at Weston Park, with Sia and David Guetta playing a supporting role.

V will also feature big name artists on its MTV Stage, including perennial festival favourites Faithless and Kaiser Chiefs, as well as Tinie Tempah and Jake Bugg.

Stages

There will also be two further stages, the Dance Arena Stage featuring headliners DJ Ez and Craig David's TS5, with a supporting cast of MK and Sigma.

The V Street Stage will feature headline sets from The Sugarhill Gang and 80s stars Soul II Soul with support slots from Anne-Marie and Laura Mvula.

Comedy will also play a big part at the event, with big names lined up to play at in the Glee Comedy Tent.

Australian funnyman Adam Hills will lead the way and there will also be sets from Katherine Ryan, Sara Pascoe and Bill Bailey.

Tomorrow (Friday) the BBC Radio One Summer of Dance Stage will feature Annie Mac and Gorgon City.

V Festival was Britain's first ever simultaneous twin-site, multi-day festival and visitors will be able to stay in style in a Pod-pod Village, in an exclusive V Style area.

New to V Festival 2016 is Pink Moon Camping, which offer pre-pitched tents.

The tents offered include those for two, four, six or eight people, or a two-man rain-bow tipi.

V Festival was launched in 1996 when Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker said he would like to play two outdoor venues in successive days.

His promoters came up with the idea of

SPECIAL REPORT

By Jordan Reynolds

V, which was originally held in Warrington and Chelmsford.

It subsequently relocated to Leeds before settling at Weston Park, in 1999.

The first Weston Park V Festival featured the best of Britpop with Manic Street Preachers, Suede, The Beautiful South, Stereophonics, Kula Shaker, Happy Mondays, and Supergrass gracing the stage.

Weston Park and Hylands Park, Chelmsford, have continued to host the event for the past 16 years.

Among those who have played include Cast, The Levellers, Gomez, Faithless, The Cardigans, Eagle-Eye Cherry, Afro Celt Sound System, The Saw Doctors and Melanie C.

The NME Stage at the festival featured an eclectic line-up with James Brown, Massive Attack, Super Furry Animals, Mercury Rev, Shed Seven, DJ Shadow, Travis, Gay Dad, dEUS, Red Snapper, A and Death in Vegas.

Organising the V Festival remains a year-round operation and around 10,000 of the event's 90,000 attendees will use local buses.

Site

Special services are laid on each year so that people can get to and from the site without clogging up local roads.

The "V" represents the Virgin Group, with the event being sponsored by Virgin Media.

With stars from around the world attending each year, interest in the festival and what goes on behind the scenes has grown each year and has led to widespread coverage on television.

It was originally televised by Channel 4 from 1997 to 2013, predominantly on their sister channel 4 Music.

It was then televised by MTV from 2014 to 2015 and for the 2016 edition of the festival it will be televised by Channel 5.



Rihanna will be one of the major acts at V Festival this year

Popular blues event will have an element of rock too



Voodoo Stone will be performing at the festival

BANDS from the local area and from around the UK will be performing at this year's Stafford Blues Festival.

The festival takes place at Lower Drayton Farm on the A449 near Penkridge and organisers say this year there will be a touch of a rock element for music fans to enjoy too.

The event runs from Thursday, September 1, through to Sunday, September 4.

Lorraine Conkey, the festival director, said: "This year the event is undercover so no matter what the weather you'll be warm and dry and make sure you bring your chairs or rugs to sit on."

"There will be plenty food vendors, retail stalls and other attractions, the

bar prices reflect pub prices and dogs are more than welcome.

"We are also having a pre festival open mic come jam night that will take place on Thursday, September 1.

"Everyone is welcome to come along and join in from 7.30pm onwards with access to the marquee with acoustic stage and is free for everyone, camping is permitted overnight. We encourage everyone to come along and have a fabulous time.

"The key to this festival is that all ages are welcome and the organisers LR Partnership have included camping; tents or caravans in the ticket price and children under the age of 14 in for free as long accompanied by an adult. This festival will be one of the cheapest where you can afford to bring the whole family."

On the Friday night, Rob Halden, a local comedian and compere, will

be hosting the evening with Stuart Woolfenden from Redditch opening the festival followed by The SickNotes and The Rockdogs.

The rock theme as well as the different genres of blues runs throughout the weekend.

On Saturday the line-up covers the Midlands area but further afield as well as Used Blues from Glasgow will be returning this year as well as Coldflame, Voodoo Stone, Lol Goodman Band, Blackfish, Ged Wilson, Ben Miles, Peter Wear and from Shrewsbury the up and coming band The Rainbreakers

Sunday is dedicated to the Women in Blues Day and the line-up includes international jazz/blues singer Judy Melrine, Rheana Forrester, The Zoe Green Band and Army of Two.

For tickets got to www.stafford-bluesfestival.co.uk



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Match of the Day

10.30pm
Gary Lineker presents highlights of the opening Premier League matches, including Hull City v Leicester City at KCOM Stadium, and Manchester City v Sunderland at Etihad Stadium. Champions Leicester will be aiming to start the new campaign in a similar fashion to last season.



Versailles

11.55pm
The traitor changes tactics and goes onto strike at those closest to King Louis XIV – with deadly consequences. Meanwhile, Sophie stubbornly risks angering Marchal. The period drama depicting the decadent and turbulent early reign of King Louis XIV draws to a brutal and bloody conclusion.



The Nation's Favourite 80s Number One

8pm
A look at the 1980s – a defining decade in both pop and fashion. Featuring interviews with Spandau Ballet, Bonnie Tyler and Madness, plus a look at the stories behind chart classics such as Don't You Want Me, Tainted Love, Billie Jean and Come On Eileen. Zoe Ball narrates.



Couples Come Dine with Me

4.30pm
Three sets of contestants from Brighton compete, beginning with Sam and Nick, who produce a simple menu that reflects their busy lives running two businesses. The second couple are Maria and Terry, who offer an Asian-themed meal. Last to host are Dave and his perfectionist girlfriend Sarah.



Cricket on 5

7pm
England v Pakistan. Mark Nicholas presents all the action from day three of the Fourth Test in the four-match series, which took place at The Oval. Pakistan need a win here to draw the series. Commentary and analysis is provided by Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan and Simon Hughes.

BBC1

- 6.00 Olympic Breakfast.** A round-up of national and international news, plus sports reports, weather forecasts and arts and entertainment features.
- 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** John Torode takes on hosting duties as Andrea Oliver and Theo Randall prepare culinary treats, and Peter Richards picks out the perfect wines to accompany the studio dishes.
- 11.30 Home Cooking Made Easy.** Lorraine Pascale demonstrates how to prepare a selection of stylish dishes, including two canapes, Rioja-braised lamb shanks, pain d'epi and a graffiti cake. (R)
- 12.00 BBC News; Weather.**
- 12.10 Football Focus.** Eilidh Barbour and guests look ahead to the weekend's fixtures, as the new Premier League season gets under way, starting with Hull City v Leicester City in the lunchtime kick-off.
- 12.45 Olympics 2016.** Hazel Irvine introduces coverage on day eight of the Olympic Games in Rio, featuring various rowing finals at the Lagoa Stadium and athletics from the Olympic Stadium.
- 5.00 BBC News.**
- 5.10 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 5.20 Olympics 2016.** Hazel Irvine presents further coverage of day eight of the Olympic Games in Rio. The live action includes the third round of the men's golf competition on the Olympic Golf Course, as well as badminton and boxing at Riocentro, hockey from the Olympic Hockey Centre and sailing at Marina da Gloria.
- 7.00 Olympics 2016.** Clare Balding introduces the latest coverage on day eight of the Olympic Games, with the focus solely on the Rio Olympic Velodrome for various track cycling events. The first of the men's sprint quarter-finals takes place at 20.00, with the 9th-12th classification race at 20.18. The second round of the women's keirin gets under way at 20.22, with the second of the men's sprint quarter-finals at 20.34. The women's team pursuit final then begins at 20.53, with the Team GB squad of Laura Trott, Joanna Rowsell-Shand, Elinor Barker, Katie Archibald and Ciara Horne hoping to retain their crown from London four years ago. The 7th-12th classification race in the women's keirin begins at 21.27, with the final following at 21.33, and the action is completed with the men's sprint semi-finals at 21.41 and 21.59.
- 10.10 BBC News; Weather.**
- 10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the opening Premier League matches, including Hull City v Leicester City at KCOM Stadium, and Manchester City v Sunderland at Etihad Stadium; **National Lottery Update.**
- 11.55 Olympics 2016.** Jason Mohammad presents further coverage on day eight, with Greg Rutherford, Jessica Ennis-Hill and Mo Farah aiming to repeat their "Super Saturday" heroics of 2012.
- 4.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 4.05 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.10 FILM: Two Tickets to Broadway (1951).** Musical, starring Janet Leigh.
- 7.50 FILM: The 39 Steps (1935).** Alfred Hitchcock's spy thriller, starring Robert Donat.
- 9.15 Olympics: Rio Highlights 2016.** Jason Mohammad presents highlights of the seventh day of the Olympics, where medals were handed out in events including tennis, rowing, track cycling and swimming.
- 12.45 Bargain Hunt.** The two teams search the antique shops in Congleton, Cheshire. (R)
- 1.45 Homes Under the Hammer.** Properties in Staffordshire, London and Newcastle. (R)
- 2.45 Escape to the Country.** A couple search for their first house in Worcestershire. (R)
- 3.30 Gardeners' World.** An MP keen on renovating his walled garden. (R)
- 4.00 Final Score.** Round-up of football results.
- 5.15 Full Steam Ahead.** The historians take a trip on the Flying Scotsman. (R)
- 6.15 Dad's Army.** Mainwaring's platoon tries to raise money for the local Spitfire fund by having a bash at morris dancing. Classic comedy first broadcast in 1974, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)
- 6.50 Proms Extra 2016.** Katie Derham joins the audience at the Royal Albert Hall for tonight's Gershwin, Gala featuring the John Wilson Orchestra. She also revisits recent Proms highlights.
- 7.30 BBC Proms 2016.** Katie Derham presents from the Royal Albert Hall as conductor John Wilson and his orchestra revisit some of American songwriting duo George and Ira Gershwin's most memorable tunes.
- 9.30 Edinburgh Nights.** New series. Kirsty Wark introduces highlights from the city's annual arts and cultural festivals, including interviews with Angus Deayton and Richard Wilson.
- 10.00 The National Lottery Live.** Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws. Plus, a catch-up with Team GB medal-winners at the Rio Olympics. Presented by Kate Garraway.
- 10.10 Olympics 2016.** Clare Balding presents coverage of the eighth day of competition at the Olympic Games, with men's sprint cycling and Great Britain v USA in women's hockey taking centre stage.
- 11.55 Versailles.** The traitor changes tactics and strikes at those closest to Louis – with deadly consequences. Meanwhile, Sophie stubbornly risks angering Marchal. Last in the series; (R) **Inside Versailles.** Following the final instalment of Versailles, Professor Kate Williams and Greg Jenner conclude the series by discussing the historical background of 17th century court fashion. Last in the series. (R)
- 12.55 FILM: The Kid with a Bike (2011).** Drama, starring Thomas Doret and Cecile De France.
- 2.20 FILM: Treacle Jr (2010).** Drama, starring Aidan Gillen and Tom Fisher.
- 3.35 This is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00 CITV:** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge **6.25** Pat & Stan **6.35** Dino Dan **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story **7.00** Sooty **7.15** Super 4 **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes
- 8.25 ITV News.**
- 8.30 Weekend.** With Alistair McGowan, Peter Egan and Anna Richardson.
- 9.25 Murder, She Wrote.** A British MP is murdered. (R)
- 10.25 Murder, She Wrote.** Jessica's neighbour is shot dead. (R)
- 11.25 FILM: Columbo: Forgotten Lady (1975).** A former Broadway star kills her husband and makes it look like suicide, hoping the publicity will help revive her flagging career. Crime drama, with Peter Falk and Janet Leigh.
- 1.25 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 1.30 Wild Animal Reunions.** Featuring people who have formed special bonds with rhinos and lions. Last in the series. (R)
- 2.30 Doc Martin.** Mark's stag night ends in disaster. (R)
- 3.30 River Monsters.** A fish is suspected of killing a honeymooning bride in Colombia. (R)
- 4.00 FILM: The Mummy (1999).** A soldier of fortune battles the vengeful spirit of an ancient Egyptian high priest who has supernatural powers. Fantasy action adventure, starring Brendan Fraser and Rachel Weisz.
- 6.15 ITV News Central; Weather.**
- 6.30 ITV News and Weather.**
- 6.45 You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring a tiny archaeologist who digs up more than anyone bargained for, and an eating competition.
- 7.15 Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern challenges Amanda Tolan, Manish Mehta and Charlotte Myers to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.
- 8.00 The Nation's Favourite 80s Number One.** Looking at the 1980s – a defining decade in both pop and fashion. Features interviews with 80s icons such as Spandau Ballet and Madness. Zoe Ball narrates. (R)
- 9.30 FILM: The Bourne Identity (2002).** An amnesiac man pulled from the sea by the crew of a fishing boat is targeted by assassins as he tries to discover who he is. Thriller, starring Matt Damon and Franka Potente.
- 11.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 11.15 FILM: The Bourne Identity (2002).** Concludes.
- 12.00 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 Murder, She Wrote.** Jessica visits Quebec to testify on behalf of an old friend wrongly accused of murdering his wife. (R)
- 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

Channel 4

- 6.15 Shipping Wars.** Roy Garber lands his dream job. (R)
- 6.40 Gillette World Sport.** With Paralympic sprinter Heinrich Popow.
- 7.05 Army Road Races.** Action from the motorcycling event in Armoey, Co Antrim.
- 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Marie starts wearing glasses. (R)
- 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray seeks Robert's help at Christmas. (R)
- 9.00 The Morning Line.** Racing preview with Gina Harding.
- 10.00 Frasier.** Builders wreck Frasier's apartment. (R)
- 10.30 Frasier.** Part one of two. A pay rise leads to a romantic entanglement. (R)
- 11.05 The Big Bang Theory.** Amy spoils one of Sheldon's favourite films by pointing out a plot hole. (R)
- 11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon re-evaluates the time he spends with Amy. (R)
- 12.00 The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon unwittingly makes a scientific breakthrough. (R)
- 12.30 The Simpsons.** Lisa fears she is destined to be stupid. (R)
- 1.00 The Simpsons.** Homer helps Moe defraud his insurance company. (R)
- 1.30 The Simpsons.** Homer becomes a submarine captain. (R)
- 2.00 Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Newbury, Newmarket and Ripon.
- 4.30 Couples Come Dine with Me.** Three sets of contestants from Brighton compete. (R)
- 5.15 Couples Come Dine with Me.** Three couples in north London battle for the £1,000 prize. (R)
- 6.00 Channel 4 News.**
- 6.20 FILM: Men in Black II (2002).** An alien plots to destroy humanity – and the only one who can stop her is a retired agent whose memory has been wiped. Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones.
- 8.00 FILM: Rise of the Planet of the Apes (2011).** A genetically engineered chimpanzee develops superior intelligence and leads other apes to rebel against the human race. Sci-fi thriller, starring James Franco and Andy Serkis.
- 10.00 FILM: Gladiator (2000).** A Roman general is forced to fight as a gladiator and uses his position to seek revenge for the murder of his family. Oscar-winning epic, with Russell Crowe and Joaquin Phoenix.
- 12.55 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** The Greek at the Harbour restaurant in California. (R)
- 1.50 Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. Freddie arrives at the garage with an old VW camper he thinks they can restore and make a profit on, while Joe finds suspicious texts from Diego on Mercedes' phone. (R)
- 3.55 Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** Creating plates to complement a 1930s-style dining room. (R)
- 4.15 Phil: Secret Agent Down Under.** Ravi and Kiran Munde search for a home in Perth, Australia. (R)
- 5.10 Location, Location, Location.** Two couples hoping to relocate to Surrey. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** Bob the Builder **6.10** Wanda and the Alien **6.20** Pets **6.25** Noddy in Toyland **6.40** Paw Patrol **6.50** Little Princess **7.05** Pip Ahoy! **7.20** Blaze and the Monster Machines **7.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.00** Shimmer and Shine
- 8.25 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R)**
- 9.00 The Saturday Show Live.**
- 11.00 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops.**
- 11.25 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)**
- 12.20 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** A York man gets an unexpected soaking after an argument. (R)
- 1.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** A former soldier takes the law into his own hands. (R)
- 2.10 Police Interceptors.** Sgt Jon Moon and his police dog Kanto are confronted by a thief wielding a knife. (R)
- 3.10 Police Interceptors.** Kev Salter and Ian Squire hunt for a man roaming the streets with a machete. (R)
- 4.10 Police Interceptors.** Damien Stevens draws his stun gun on an aggressive driver. (R)
- 5.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Two agents face a sensitive eviction. (R)
- 6.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** In East London, High Court Enforcement Agents Paul and Phil are involved in a brothel eviction, while in south Wales, Stewart and Elmore chase a debt owed by a working mum. (R)
- 6.55 5 News Weekend.**
- 7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v Pakistan. Mark Nicholas presents action from day three of the Fourth Test in the four-match series, which took place at The Oval.
- 8.00 Criminally Funny: Caught in the Act.** Zoe Lyons, Matt Richardson and Dave Spikely introduce a selection of humorous clips capturing the law being broken, including footage of a kleptomaniac cat. Narrated by Iain Lee. (R)
- 9.00 Football on 5: The Championship.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Aston Villa v Rotherham United and Norwich City v Sheffield Wednesday.
- 10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in the League One and Two.
- 10.30 Celebrity Big Brother.** Marcus Bentley narrates as the famous housemates lie in their beds, chat on the sofas and argue in the kitchen – all for the enjoyment of the viewing public.
- 11.30 Impractical Jokers UK.** The Jokers head to a shopping centre to describe their missing wife to the public and compete to claim high-fives from complete strangers on the street. (R)
- 12.00 SuperCasino.**
- 3.10 Celebrity Big Brother. (R)**
- 4.00 GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R)**
- 4.50 Divine Designs. (R)**
- 5.15 Nick's Quest. (R)**
- 5.40 Angels of Jarm. (R)**
- 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)**



Countryfile

5.30pm

Matt Baker, Adam Henson, Charlotte Smith, Sean Fletcher, Naomi Wilkinson and Helen Skelton celebrates 60 years of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, joining a team as they go through the five-day diamond challenge in the West Highlands of Scotland. Includes Weather for the Week Ahead.



Robot Wars

8pm

Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present more battles in the arena. A team of engineering students has created a robot that is able to move easily in any direction, which they send into battle against a group of holiday camp staff and a father and son duo whose machine is equipped with huge piercing claws.



Midsomer Murders

8pm

Forest ranger Felicity Ward is blinded by mysterious lights while driving at night in the village of Cooper Hill and the next morning her car is found abandoned at the roadside, followed closely by the discovery of her body. Visiting UFO spotters in the village are convinced aliens are responsible.



Flying to the Ends of the Earth

7pm

Arthur Williams makes a journey by air across Peru. He investigates new theories concerning the origins of the Nazca lines, 2000-year-old lines etched into the desert sands that some believe were created by aliens, but may actually be a map showing the location of underground water sources.



Pulp Fiction

10pm

A series of interlinked stories about the Los Angeles underworld. A hitman plays minder to his boss's wife, and he and his partner deal with a dead body following a mishap with a gun. Quentin Tarantino's crime drama, starring John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson, Uma Thurman and Bruce Willis.

BBC1

- 6.00 Olympic Breakfast.**
7.35 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the opening Premier League matches, including Hull City v Leicester City at KCOM Stadium, and Manchester City v Sunderland at Etihad Stadium. (R)
- 9.00 BBC News.**
10.00 Sunday Morning Live. Naga Munchetty presents a topical debate covering religious, moral and ethical issues, with guest panellists and contributions from viewers.
- 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer.** Developers Lucy Alexander and Martin Roberts visit a lower-ground-floor flat in London, a detached house in Kent and an end-of-terrace home in Stoke. (R)
- 12.00 Bargain Hunt.** In Devon, Tim Wonnacott presides as two teams search for items to be sold at auction, with expertise coming in the form of Kate Bliss and David Harper. (R)
- 12.45 BBC News; Weather.**
1.00 Olympics 2016. Hazel Irvine introduces action from day nine of the Olympic Games, featuring live coverage of the women's marathon at Sambodromo and boxing highlights from RioCentro.
- 5.00 BBC News.**
5.20 Midlands Today; Weather.
5.30 Countryfile. Matt Baker celebrates 60 years of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, joining a team as they go through the five-day diamond challenge in the West Highlands of Scotland. Includes Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 6.30 Olympics 2016.** Clare Balding presents the latest live coverage on day nine of the Olympic Games. The Rio Olympic Arena is the focus of attention to begin with, as three artistic gymnastics finals take place, starting with the women's vault at 18.46. The men's pommel horse final follows at 19.33, with world champion Max Whitlock and 2012 silver medalist Louis Smith representing Team GB, and the women's uneven bars final completes proceedings at 20.20. The action then moves to the Rio Olympic Velodrome for various track cycling events, starting with women's sprint time-trial qualifying at 20.00.
- 10.00 BBC News.**
10.20 Midlands Today; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Manish Bhasin presents action from the latest Premier League matches, which were Bournemouth v Manchester United at Vitality Stadium and Arsenal v Liverpool at Emirates Stadium.
- 11.25 Olympics 2016.** Clare Balding presents further live coverage on day nine, focusing on track cycling at the Rio Olympic Velodrome, with the closing stages of the men's omnium elimination race.
- 12.00 Olympics 2016.** Jason Mohammad introduces further coverage on day nine of the Games, featuring the flagship event of the athletics schedule – the men's 100m final – as well as the men's 400m final.
- 3.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
3.05 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.15 Gardeners' World.** An MP keen on renovating his walled garden. (R)
- 6.45 Countryfile.** Anita Rani reports from the Scottish island of Kerrera. (R)
- 7.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** James Martin presents highlights of the series, recalling his favourite moments from previous years in the kitchen. Featuring an archive programme presented by Rick Stein. (R)
- 9.15 Olympics: Rio Highlights 2016.** Jason Mohammad introduces action from day eight of the Games in Rio, where Greg Rutherford, Jessica Ennis-Hill and Mo Farah aimed to repeat their "Super Saturday" heroics of 2012.
- 1.00 FILM: The Prisoner of Zenda (1952).** An Englishman agrees to pose as the king of a European country, but has to keep up the deception when the real monarch is kidnapped. Adventure, with Stewart Granger and James Mason.
- 2.40 Flog It!** Kate Bliss and David Fletcher visit the Wiltshire town of Warminster. (R)
- 3.25 Highlands: Scotland's Wild Heart.** The summer season. (R)
- 4.25 Songs of Praise.** Christians in the gypsy and traveller community.
- 5.00 Olympics 2016.** Hazel Irvine presents the latest live coverage on day nine in Rio, featuring sailing with the men's RS:X Windsurfer medal race and artistic gymnastics with the men's floor final.
- 6.30 FILM: Megamind (2010).** An evil genius finally kills his superhero nemesis, but finds life becomes boring without anyone to foil his schemes. Animated comedy, with the voices of Will Ferrell and Tina Fey.
- 8.00 Robot Wars.** Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present more battles, as a father-son duo and teams of holiday camp staff and engineering students send their creations into the arena.
- 9.00 Dragons' Den.** The panel casts their eyes over plans for an innovative tool and a portable water-saving device – but a restaurateur struggles to get across his business plan. Evan Davis presents.
- 10.00 Olympics 2016.** Clare Balding and Mark Chapman introduce the latest from day nine of the Games in Rio, including live track cycling coverage and a round-up of the day's action so far.
- 11.25 FILM: Mister John (2013).** Premiere. A man coping with a failing marriage goes to Singapore and is tempted to make a fresh start by assuming his dead brother's identity. Drama, starring Aidan Gillen.
- 12.55 Sign Zone: Countryfile.** Anita Rani reports from Kerrera, a tiny island in the Scottish Inner Hebrides, close to the town of Oban, which in the last census had a population of just 34. (R)
- 1.50 Sign Zone: Holby City.** Bernie faces an ethical dilemma when her wayward son arrives at the hospital, Sacha and Essie try to put the events of the siege behind them and Morven treats a difficult patient. (R)
- 2.50 This Is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00 CITY:** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge
6.25 Pat & Stan
6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures
6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story
7.00 Sooty
7.15 Super 4
7.35 Thunderbirds Are Go
8.00 NinjaGo: Rise of the Snakes
- 8.25 ITV News.**
8.30 Weekend. With guests Eddie Edwards, Matthew Kelly and Pixie Lott.
- 9.25 Murder, She Wrote.** Jessica's colleague is charged with murder. (R)
- 10.25 Murder, She Wrote.** A computer expert dies suddenly. (R)
- 11.25 FILM: Columbo: Now You See Him (1976).** Detective drama, starring Peter Falk.
- 1.15 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
1.25 Long Lost Family. Searching for the youngest birth mother the programme has ever encountered. (R)
- 2.25 The Chase.** Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
- 3.25 FILM: Peter Pan (2003).** Fantasy adventure, with Jeremy Sumpter and Rachel Hurd-Wood.
- 5.30 Masterpiece with Alan Titchmarsh.** Teams compete to find the most rare and valuable items at Fife Place in Sussex. (R)
- 6.30 ITV News Central; Weather.**
6.45 ITV News and Weather.
7.00 The Zoo. Life at London Zoo and Whipsnade, following Sumatran tiger cubs, a pygmy hippo receiving treatment for cancer and the team's breeding of its first Humboldt penguin. (R)
- 8.00 Midsomer Murders.** Mysterious lights are seen in the sky over Cooper Hill, and when a forest ranger suffers a strange death, the visiting UFO spotters are convinced aliens are responsible. (R)
- 10.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
10.15 Slow Train Through Africa with Griff Rhys Jones. The comedian attempts to zigzag his way 1,200 miles through Kenya and Tanzania, beginning this leg of his journey on a vintage steam locomotive designed in Glasgow. (R)
- 11.15 Tipping Point.** Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz show, in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot. (R)
- 12.15 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 Motorsport UK.** Action from Croft, featuring the British F4 Championship and Porsche Carrera Cup. Commentary by Richard John Neil.
- 3.50 British Superbike Championship Highlights.** Action from the seventh round of the season at Brands Hatch, where two races were scheduled to take place. James Haydon presents, with commentary by Jack Burnicle and James Whitham.
- 4.40 ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.
- 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences. (R)

Channel 4

- 6.05 London Triathlon.** Action from the recent event that saw professionals and amateurs in competition.
- 7.00 Motor Sport: British GT.** Action from the sixth event of the season at Snetterton.
- 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Frank is caught out in a supermarket. (R)
- 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray clashes with a radio presenter. (R)
- 8.25 Frasier.** Part two of two. Kate and Frasier decide to take their relationship slowly. (R)
- 8.55 Frasier.** Niles reaches the end of his tether with Maris. (R)
- 9.30 Sunday Brunch.** With guests Jessica Hynes and Ricky Gervais.
- 12.30 The Simpsons: Bart Day.** Santa's Little Helper runs away from home. (R)
- 1.00 The Simpsons: Bart Day.** Bart risks being held back a year. (R)
- 1.30 The Simpsons: Bart Day.** Bart sees into the future. (R)
- 2.00 The Simpsons: Bart Day.** Bart becomes a daredevil skateboarder. (R)
- 2.30 The Simpsons: Bart Day.** Bart is placed on medication. (R)
- 3.00 The Simpsons: Bart Day.** Bart looks after a bird's nest filled with eggs. (R)
- 3.30 The Simpsons: Bart Day.** The family encounters Sideshow Bob in Italy. (R)
- 4.00 The Simpsons: Bart Day.** Bart persuades his family to go on a cruise. (R)
- 4.30 Location, Location, Location.** Kirstie and Phil help people looking for homes in London. (R)
- 5.30 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** Scarlett Douglas takes two retirees to view holiday homes in north Tenerife. (R)
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
7.00 Flying to the Ends of the Earth. Arthur Williams makes a journey across Peru, passing through deserts, mountains and jungles and investigating the origin of the famous 2000-year-old Nazca lines. Last in the series.
- 8.00 FILM: Captain America: The First Avenger (2011).** Premiere. A frail volunteer is transformed into the ultimate soldier and fights for his country during the Second World War. Superhero adventure, with Chris Evans and Hugo Weaving. Edited for language and violence.
- 10.30 FILM: Cuban Fury (2014).** An overweight former salsa dancer tries to regain his confidence so he can return to the dance floor to sweep his boss off her feet. Comedy, starring Nick Frost and Chris O'Dowd.
- 12.15 Ramsay's Hotel Hell.** (R)
1.05 Friday Night Dinner. (R)
1.35 Walking the Himalayas. Levison Wood joins pilgrims on their way to India's holiest city. (R)
- 2.30 Location, Location, Location.** (R)
3.25 Come Dine with Me. (R)
3.55 Come Dine with Me. (R)
4.25 Come Dine with Me. (R)
4.50 Come Dine with Me. (R)
5.20 Come Dine with Me. (R)
5.50 Draw It! (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** Peppa Pig
6.05 Toby's Travelling Circus
6.15 Angelina Ballerina
6.30 Bob the Builder
6.40 Wanda and the Alien
6.50 Zack and Quack
7.05 Pets
7.10 Noddy in Toyland
7.20 Paw Patrol
7.35 Little Princess
7.50 Pip Ahoy!
8.10 Blaze and the Monster Machines
8.35 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
8.50 Shimmer and Shine
9.15 Jelly Jamm
9.30 LazyTown
- 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** Donnie meets Bigfoot. (R)
- 10.30 Football on 5: The Championship.** Highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship. (R)
- 11.25 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Goals from the weekend's games in the Leagues One and Two. (R)
- 12.00 Now That's Funny!** Featuring animals behaving badly. (R)
- 1.00 FILM: WarGames (1983).** Thriller, starring Matthew Broderick.
- 3.10 FILM: The Time Machine (2002).** Sci-fi adventure, starring Guy Pearce.
- 5.00 FILM: Planet of the Apes (2001).** Sci-fi adventure remake, starring Mark Wahlberg.
- 7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v Pakistan. Mark Nicholas presents action from day four of the Fourth Test in the four-match series, which took place at The Oval.
- 8.00 Monkeys Make You Laugh Out Loud.** Compilation of internet videos featuring monkeys doing bizarre things.
- 8.55 5 News Weekend.**
9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.
- 10.00 FILM: Pulp Fiction (1994).** A series of interlinked stories about the Los Angeles underworld. Quentin Tarantino's crime drama, starring John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson, Uma Thurman and Bruce Willis.
- 1.00 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.10 Mascara Boys: Sex Me Up.** Men obsessed with how they look and determined to turn themselves into the perfect specimen, either through the use of make-up or by going under the knife. (R)
- 4.00 House Doctor.** Property expert Ann Maurice offers advice to the would-be sellers of a two-bedroom semi in the West Midlands town of Cradley Heath that has been on the market for six months. (R)
- 4.25 House Doctor.** Ann Maurice and Alistair Appleton head for Milton Keynes, where they help a couple desperate to sell their home and move to France. (R)
- 4.50 Wildlife SOS.** The work of volunteers at a wildlife sanctuary. (R)
- 5.15 Wildlife SOS.** The work of volunteers at a wildlife sanctuary. (R)
- 5.40 Angels of Jarm.** The children worry about singing in class – until Angel Ellie arrives. (R)
- 5.50 Roary the Racing Car.** Maxi becomes afraid of racing. (R)

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KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

CARRIE single 29yr old slim pretty Care Assistant, looking for a fun guy for nights in/out, good times, love and laughter. Give me a ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423489

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657

BEV 32, fit, petite, very pretty, trendy with a great figure, personality, loves animals, children and WLTM fun male to be my soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423473

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

CAROL, 38, slim gorgeous brunette with lots of interests looking to put some romance back into life, seeking willing male to spoil rotten and love. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423439

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 422663

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423493

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

DONNA, vivacious slim brunette, 48, lives for today, fit and fun loving, seeks active, easygoing male for companionship. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423477

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

LYN, 51, tall curvy blue eyed brunette loves countryside, motor sports and cuddles, seeks tactile romantic male for some fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423443

LORRAINE, attractive solvent brunette, 34yrs, own house/car wlm gent any age, looks unimportant but must have GSOH. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 422415

JEAN, 56, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man seeks mature male to share relaxed relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423305

JESS, pretty blonde lady, 29yrs, feminine and caring. Loves older mature men who are worldly wise. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. Text Only Box: 4000683

STACY 28yr old gorgeous brunette with buxom figure, intelligent and sensual, WLTM genuine male to get to know for fun dates and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 377509

KATRIANA, professional sincere lady, 48yrs, loves to have a good time. Very sensual and loves men of all ages. Please text me for a chat. Text Only Box 4148978

Mature female 63, large breasted, seeks assertive younger man 30-50 for adult fun. Must be discreet. Text only

Mailbox: 549584
Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 379535

VERY attractive intelligent blonde, 59, WLTM tall attractive solvent man. No Tattoos. South Yorks. Text only Mailbox: 5430085

55 year old female looking for friendship, meals out, coffee, chats, work part time and care for parent. Text only Mailbox: 5517508

VERY attractive blonde lady, own house in lovely village, loves travel, entertaining, exercise, would like to meet tall attractive solvent male. Text only Mailbox: 5430085

CAROLINE, slim attractive 40's fit female, OHAC, divorced and ready to be romanced again, seeks similar minded male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423301

JEAN, 56, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man seeks mature male to share relaxed relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423305

BLACK, attractive cultured lady seeks white gentleman, age 40-60 for friendship first perhaps LTR later. Text only Mailbox: 5511784

KATHERINE, 45, romantic, slim, feminine, loves music, likes fun, full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share intimate times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423261

LORNA 34, sensual, shapely brunette WLTM tall friendly guy for romantic no strings fun. Ask no questions, I'll tell you the best! Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423241

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420757

CATHY attractive 35yr singleton, varied interests, looking for trustworthy male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423231

SARAH 39, blonde hair, blue/green eyes, fun loving and romantic looking for new possibilities with well built, dark haired tactile male. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423093

LOVELY Oriental lady in Carmarthenshire seeks older man 70+ to share company and special times and to be a partner. Text only Mailbox: 5506384

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411459

LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422679

JANE, very attractive blonde, own house in lovely village, car etc, loves travel to sunny places, entertaining, exercise WLTM male with similar interests. Text only Mailbox: 5430085

ATTRACTIVE energetic mature lady, looking for well-travelled, solvent companion for holidays, dining out and days away. Text only Mailbox: 5502846

BROWN eyed brummie female 65 smoker likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTM male 65 - 73 for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5501142

BROWN eyed brummie female, 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTM male, 66-73, for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 4400186

Mature female 63, large breasted, seeks assertive younger man 30-50 for adult fun. Must be discreet. Text only

Mailbox: 549584
Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423089

CAROL, 44, brunette with plenty of spare time on her hands seeks special mature male for fun times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423057

ALISON 28, feminine, outgoing, adventurous brunette who knows what she wants, seeks fit, fun loving man to sweep her off her feet. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423061

SABINA, 35, outgoing attractive brunette, fit and carefree just looking for fun times without complications, maybe more later. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423003

EILEEN 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423007

JOANNA, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. Text only Mailbox: 5428223

YOUNG, big boobed, single mum. Looking for a fun guy, but wants to be spoiled. Relationship ideally but happy with no strings fun. Text only Mailbox: 5496828

ATTRACTIVE slim 54yr old female looking for caring genuine male 50-58 yrs to wine and dine with, share nice times with, please get in touch. Text only Mailbox: 5395695

TINA, 41, WLTM Muslim men, Pakistani, Kurdish, Turkish for daytime or evening fun, can accommodate, can travel, very discreet. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422927

Single Men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

GUY, 47, 5ft7, dark hair, blue eyes, loves music, DVDs, nights in and out, seeks female, 30-42, for friendship and LTR, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423559

JIMBO, friendly fun loving chap, 43yrs, own building company, no kids. Wants a lovely caring lady to spoil, any age, single mums welcome. Text Only Box: 4036422

TONY, 58, tall, dark hair, seeks mature female, 65+, for hassle free liaisons, looks not important. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423389

KEN, 53, married and looking for no strings, adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423379

ANDY, from West Brom, slim, very young looking 49, looking for a special lady to spend fun times together and loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421747

MALE, young looking 49, 5ft5, slim build, from West Bromwich, likes films, socialising, looking for a fun lady who likes to laugh, for good times/possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 421783

ROBERT, slim, intelligent, N/S, 50's, seeks attractive, younger female for uncomplicated friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 312443

EDDIE, young looking 54, painter and decorator by trade, likes going out and having good time, sport and all kinds of music, looking for a LTR with a caring, honest, trustworthy person, as I am. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423113

MALE 59, N/S, fit, seeks attractive slim female for discreet no strings friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413655

RETIRED widower, 57", slim, salt/pepper hairy active active interests vary, loyal, trustworthy, reliable, seeks mature lady for friendship. Text only Mailbox: 4904669

SINGLE 38 year old male, fun loving, tall, blue eyes, looking for caring 30 to 50 year old female, passionate and fun loving. Text only Mailbox: 5516385

FIT mechanic, looking for female any age, friendly with benefits arrangement. Text only Mailbox: 4605333

MALE 45, easy going, looking for a lady for adult fun. Cardiff area. Text only Mailbox: 5515485

MATURE, passionate male, 30s WLTM a lady, grab the chance while I am single! Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423195

JOE, semi retired, young looking and acting, slim and fit, 5ft8, considerate, good company, looking for daytime meets. Let's see if we click. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422803

MALE, 41, shaved hair, dark brown eyes, athletic build, open minded, up for NSA fun with a female. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423349

WIDOWER, 73, near Coventry, healthy and very active, seeks female, 58-68, for companionship, days out, theatre, and regular short trips to property in Marbaia. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423339

TALL attractive male, 56, looking to meet a mature woman, size 18 plus, any age, for close fun times. Text only Mailbox: 5410860

PROFESSIONAL male, 56, young looking, slim, fit, N/S, seeks younger female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 310626

ROBERT 50's, N/S, slim, easygoing, GSOH, seeks attractive female for discreet friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 358600

ATTRACTIVE male, 58, N/S, fit, missing pleasant female company, seeks open-minded, slim, attractive female for discreet liaisons. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 384406

MEDIUM build male, single, enjoys days out, country pubs and keep fit, looking for a soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423189

ADVENTUROUS 36-year-old male, dark hair, slim, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417235

MATURE male seeking fun times, Coventry area. Text only Mailbox: 4830151

47 year old guy, seeks female, 30-42, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area, for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423105

IRISH widower, 65, 5ft9, GSOH, WLTM a lady for friendship in the North Birmingham area. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423071

IRISH male, 60s, 5ft9, independent, n/s, wishes to meet a lady in the Birmingham area. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 420859

SHAUN, short black hair, mixed race, 5ft7, average build, looking for a lady, looks not important but a great personality is a must! Hanley area. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423107

DAVE, 54, 5ft10, medium build, easy going, happy, looking for an attractive, loving and caring female, 45-65, for friendship and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 423073

MIKE 49, slim, young looks, seeks female, 35-50 for friendship and going out. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 356651

MALE 57, tall, seeks mature female, 50-75, for close adult fun, any size or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 422409

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2013 13 CITROEN C1 1.0 VTR 5-door,
Blue, One Owner, Only 9,600 miles
from new, Air Con, FSH, Zero Road Tax
£9,999



2014 14 FIAT PUNTO 1.25 ASY 3 Door,
Grey Metallic, 23,700 Miles, Climate Control,
Reversing Sensors, One Owner, FSH, **£5,999**



2013 13 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 S
5-door, Manual, Bright Red, 15,000
miles, FSH **£5,999**



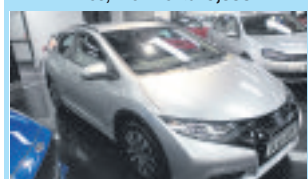
2010 10 BMW 318D 2.0 M-SPORT
4 Door Saloon, Blue Metallic,
17" Double Spoke Alloy Wheels,
63,000 miles, £30 Road Tax **£9,999**



2007 07 LAND ROVER FREELANDER
2.2 GS TD4 6 SPEED MANUAL Black
Metallic, 72,800 miles, Reverse
Sensors, Privacy Glass **£8,499**



2014 64 SUZUKI SX4 S-CROSS SZT
1.6 Manual, Metallic Lime, 17,000
miles, 1 Owner **£10,699**



2015 64 HONDA CIVIC 1.6i Diesel
SE+ Estate Silver Metallic, One
Owner, 5,000 miles, Reverse Camera,
Zero Road Tax **£13,499**



2013 13 FORD FIESTA 1.0 ECO BOOST
ZETEC 3-door, 120 BHP, Blue, Rear Spoiler,
49,600 miles, Zero Road Tax **£8,499**

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2007 57	AUDI A4 AVANT 2.0 FSi S-LINE Manual, Metallic Grey, 58,000 miles, FSH £7,499
2013 13	AUDI A4 ALL ROAD 2.0TDI QUATTRO ESTATE, Black Metallic with Privacy Glass, 6 Speed Manual, Climate Control, Sat Nav, 62,000 Miles 16,999
2006 06	AUDI A4 2.0 TDi Estate 170 bhp Manual, Metallic Black, 109,000 miles, FSH..... £5,999
2010 10	BMW 318D 2.0 M-SPORT 4 Door Saloon, Blue Metallic, 17" Double Spoke Alloy Wheels, 63,000 miles, £30 Road Tax £9,999
2013 13	CITROEN C1 1.0 VTR 5-Door, Blue, One Owner, Only 9,600 miles, from new, Air Con, FSH, Zero Road Tax £4,999
2015 15	CITROEN C3 1.2 VTR+ 5-door, Purple, 6,200 miles, One Owner, Bluetooth, £20 Road Tax SOLD
2013 13	CITROEN DS3 D-STYLE + HDI 3 DOOR, Grey Metallic with Purple Roof, One Owner, 27,000 Miles, Zero Road Tax £8,499
2014 14	FIAT PUNTO 1.25 ASY 3 Door, Grey Metallic, 23,700 Miles, Climate Control, Reversing Sensors, One Owner, FSH, £5,999
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2015 64	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC S TDCi 5 Door, Silver Metallic, One Owner, 11,800 Miles, Alloy Wheels, 20 Road Tax £11,999
2008 58	FORD FUSION ZETEC DCi 5-door. Silver Metallic, 84,200 miles, FSH, £30 Road Tax..... £3,999
2015 64	HONDA CIVIC 1.6i Diesel SE+ Estate, Silver Metallic, One Owner, 5000 Miles, Reverse Camera, Zero Road Tax, £13,499
2010 10	HONDA CIVIC 1.4 VTEC TYPE S 3-door, Milano Red, 31,000 miles, 6 Speed Box, Air Con, FSH..... £5,999
2009 09	HYUNDAI i10 1.1 5-door Manual. Bright Red, 35,000 miles, Air Con, 2 Owners, £30 Road Tax £3,999
2013 63	HYUNDAI i40 1.7 CDTi STYLE Manual, 5-door, Hatch, Metallic Grey, 36,000 miles, FSH £10,499
2011 60	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 GS TD4 AUTO, Grey Metallic, 50,000 Miles, Reverse Parking Sensors, FSH £13,999
2007 07	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 GS TD4 6 SPEED MANUAL, Black Metallic, 72,800 Miles, Reverse Sensors, Privacy Glass, £8,499
2010 60	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 XS 6 SPEED MANUAL, Grey Metallic, Sat Nav, Heated Seats, 57,000 Miles SOLD
2012 12	MERCEDES C180 SE MANUAL Red Upgrade AMG Alloy Wheels, One Owner, 54,000 miles, FSH £10,999
2011 61	MINI CLUBMAN 2.0D S Manual. red, Black Roof, Sat Nav, 1 Owner, 37,000 miles, FSH..... £11,999
2011 11	MINI COOPER CLUBMAN 1.6 Diesel Estate, Black, 69,000 miles, FSH, £20 Road Tax, £8,499
2008 08	MINI COOPER 1.6 3 door, Manual, Metallic, Blue/Black Roof, 43,000 miles, FSH SOLD
2013 13	NISSAN QASHQAI 360 DCi iS Diesel, Red Metallic, One Owner, 19,700 Miles, Sat Nav, Reverse Camera, Panoramic Roof, £14,999
2013 13	NISSAN MICRA 1.0 VISA 5-door, Manual, 17,000 miles, FSH £4,999
2007 57	OPEL ANTARA CDTi 4WD MANUAL Metallic Blue, 74,000 miles £7,499
2015 65	PEUGEOT 108 ACTIVE 3-door. Blue, One Owner, Air Con, Bluetooth, 6200 miles, Zero Road Tax £7,499
2013 13	PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDi SPORT 5 door. Manual, Metallic Silver, 54,000 miles, One Owner £6,999
2007 57	PEUGEOT 207 CC 1.6 Manual, Silver, Leather, 31,000 miles £3,999
2014 14	RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 Dci DYNAMIQUE Orange Metallic, 19,600 miles, Touch Screen Sat Nav, Zero Road Tax £10,750
2012 61	RENAULT TWINGO 1.6 RS SILVERSTONE GP Red, 64,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH..... £5,499
2010 10	RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.5 DCi TOM TOM ESTATE, Silver Metallic, 51,400 Miles, £20 Road Tax £5,499
2012 12	SEAT ALTEA XLL 2.0 SE TDi Estate, Grey Metallic, One Owner, 22,3000 miles, FSH £8,999
2013 63	SKODA RAPID TSi SE 5 Door, Light Blue Metallic, 26,700 Miles, Air Conditioning, £30 Road Tax, £6,999
2006 56	SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9 TDi 4X4 ESTATE, Black, 6 Speed Manual, Reverse Parking Sensors £3,999
2014 64	SUZUKI SX4 S-CROSS 1.6 Manual, Metallic Green, 1 Owner, 18,000 miles, FSH £10,699
2013 13	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SE AUTOMATIC 5-door, 35,000 miles Silver SOLD
2013 13	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 S 5-door, Manual, Bright Red, 15,000 miles, FSH £5,999
2012 62	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 DESIGN. Manual, Bright Red, 1 Owner, 7 Seats, 29,000 miles..... £8,499
2010 10	VAUXHALL ASTRA .16 EXCLUSIVE 5 Door, Green Metallic, 35,950 miles, One Family Owner, Air Con, Alloy Wheels, FSH £5,999
2015 15	VOLVO XC60 2.4 DS AUTO R-DESIGN in White, 8,000 miles, One Owner, FSH £27,499
2014 14	VOLVO S40 1.6 TD D2 SE Manual, Bright Red, 18,000 miles, FSH £12,999
2011 11	VW GOLF 1.4 TSi MATCH 5-door, Light Blue Metallic, 28,600 miles, 6 Speed Gearbox, DAB Radio, FSH £8,499
2012 12	VW GOLF 1.6 TDi MATCH 5-door, Manual, Metallic Silver, One Owner, 48,000 miles £8,499
2010 60	VW POLO 1.2 SE 3-door, Blue, 44,000 miles, FSH £5,999
2006 06	VW GOLF 1.4 5 door, Metallic Silver, Manual, 67,000 miles, FSH £3,999



2010 10 HONDA CIVIC 1.4 VTEC
Type-S 3-door, Milano Red, 31,000
miles, 6 Speed Box, Air Con, FSH **£5,999**



2014 14 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 Dci
DYNAMIQUE Orange Metallic, 19,600 miles,
Touch Screen, Sat Nav, Zero Rated Tax **£10,750**



2013 13 CITROEN DS3 D-STYLE + HDI 3
DOOR, Grey Metallic with Purple Roof, One
Owner, 27,000 Miles, Zero Road Tax **£8,499**



2012 12 AUDI A4 S-LINE BLACK EDITION
2.0 TDI ESTATE Grey Metallic, Half Leather,
49,500 miles, One Owner, Reversing Sensors,
19" Alloy Wheels **£16,999**



2012 12 VW GOLF 1.6 TDi MATCH
5-door, Manual, Metallic Silver, One
Owner, 48,000 miles **£8,495**



2015 15 VOLVO XC60 2.4 DS Auto,
R-Design, in White, 8,000 miles, One
Owner, FSH **£27,499**



2011 11 VW GOLF 1.4 TSi MATCH 5-door,
Light Blue Metallic, 28,600 miles, 6 Speed
Gearbox, DAB Radio, FSH **£8,499**



2014 14 VOLVO S40 1.6 TD D2 SE
Manual, Bright Red, 18,000 miles, FSH.
£12,999

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60 NISSAN NOTE N-TEC, METALLIC RED, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, CRUISE CONTROL 75K.....	£4,195
11 VW FOX 1.2 URBAN, BRIGHT RED, ELEC. WINDOWS, REMOTE LOCKING, F.S.H. 46K.....	£3,895
60 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN 5 DR., BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, SERV. HISTORY 59K.....	£3,850
09 PEUG. 207 VERVE 1.4 S DR., BLUE, CD, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERV. HIST. 49K.....	£3,750
12 PEUGEOT 107 URBAN, RED, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, £20 ROAD TAX 34K.....	£3,495
57 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 1.5 DCI, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., FULL SERV. HIST. 57K.....	£3,495
59 CLIO 1.2 EXTREME, 3 DR., BLUE, SERV. HIST., SERVICED, NEW CAM BELT, 2 NEW TYRES 62K.....	£3,250
57 PEUGEOT 308 1.6 SPORT 5 DOOR, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON. 61K.....	£3,250
56 FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE 1.2 5 DOOR, GREY, CENT LOCKING, CD PLAYER, JUST SERV. AND CAMBELT CHANGED 38K.....	£2,685
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54 NISSAN MICRA 1.2 5 DOOR, SILVER 88K.....	£1,995

Motoring



£50,000 for a car? Look at Lexus RX

By Graham Breeze

It doesn't matter how many times you get behind the wheel of a hybrid it's still the spookiest motoring feeling to pull away in silence – and that's just what happens when you drive the Lexus RX450h.

The fourth generation of the RX luxury SUV is a full hybrid RX450h which will drive for up to two miles in full electric mode, meaning it's amazingly impressive around town.

It's also no slouch on the open road either with a top speed of 124mph, 0-62mph in 7.7 seconds and average petrol consumption of 51.4mpg, together with CO2 emissions of 127g/km, making this Lexus an impressive all-rounder.

The 2016 model is a big improvement on its predecessor with a stunning new look which brought admiring glances everywhere it went on a week-long test drive. It's packed with leather upholstery and luxurious seating and there's a great electrically adjustable steering column to help you find the best driving position.

There's a small price to pay for the stunning appearance with head room and rear vision slightly restricted for rear seat passengers due to the sloping roof but it's not enough to put you off this model.

Some of the outstanding points include hill-start assist, dual speed electric windows, automatic mirrors, LED daytime running lights, illuminated door handles, rear privacy glass, integrated roof rails, a power tailgate with no-touch sensor, 20inch alloys and an optional panoramic roof.

On the road this Lexus is a pleasure to drive with barely a whisper of road noise from the 20 inch wheels and little or no wind sound.

Sharp steering means you are quickly at home behind

the wheel and the high seating position helps the safety feel.

And when it comes to safety Lexus has not skimped. This model gets a pre-collision safety system, adaptive cruise control, lane departure alert, lane keep assist, traffic sign recognition and automatic high beam change. There's a full package of all-round airbags, ABS, vehicle stability control, traction control, and tyre pressure warning too.

There's a choice of four driving modes at the flick of a switch, one of the best navigation systems I've encountered, auto-dimming rear-view mirror, smart entry and push button start, rain sensing wipers, front and rear parking sensors, Bluetooth and all the other gizmos you would expect to find on such a luxury model.

Options

So how well will this Lexus do in the luxury SUV sector? Everything you've heard so far suggests it will be a winner but there is a downside. Is an average of 51mpg enough for instance? There are more impressive options on the market and it's an important factor for the company car man or woman.

But the business sector will be more impressed when it comes to CO2 emissions where figures of 127g/km mean a 20 per cent benefit in kind opportunity – which is much better than a lot of the competition.

It all comes at a cost of course and there was only a handful of change out of £55,000 for the fourth generation model on test and although the RX450h was stacked to the roof with goodies there's a lot of impressive competition at this level.

Hybrid technology continues to improve with every launch and this Lexus is a genuine example of the money saving system at its best and don't forget you're help saving the planet too.

Verdict: If you've got over £50,000 to spend the Lexus RX450h is well worth a look.

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4 JAGUAR XK8 Low Mileage, Silver, MUST BE SEEN.....	POA
0 JAGUAR X TYPE, Auto 2.1 SE, FSH.....	£2,885

15 FORD FIESTA 1.5 TDCI Titanium, Diesel, Grey Metallic, low mileage.....

57 BMW SE 2.5 Auto, service history, Grey Metallic, Must be seen.....

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CAR OF THE WEEK

12 VW POLO 1.2 SE Black, 3-door, 56,000 miles.....	£595
63 TOYOTA AYGO Mode VTL, Red, low mileage.....	£495
62 CITROEN C1 VTR 1.6, Red, low mileage.....	£405
13 FORD FIESTA 1.5 TDCI Titanium Red.....	DUE IN
61 VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE 1.2 Red, 1stly owner.....	Only £395
11 MAZDA 2 SPORT 1.6 Diesel, white, Alloys, Sports Trim, Air Con.....	£595
57 SUZUKI SWIFT SPORT 1.6, Black, low mileage.....	£375
07 FIAT 500 POP 12, White.....	£365
08 FORD FIESTA ZETEC Climato, 3 door, bronze metallic.....	£395
08 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.7 Diesel, Grey Metallic.....	SOLD
07 BMW 220i SE 3.0, Blue.....	SOLD
56 (07) MERCEDES A180 CDI CLASSIC SE Diesel, Silver.....	SOLD

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Mazda add autumn colour

It's time to see red this September, as Mazda's stylish and sophisticated supermini range is enhanced with the launch of the Mazda2 Red Edition.

With high levels of standard specification, eye-catching styling enhancements and a striking cabin, the Red Edition's stand-out appearance complements the Mazda2's stylish KODO: Soul of Motion design and sporty proportions.

Offered with a choice of free-of-charge Snowflake White Pearl or Black Mica paint, the Red Edition's youthful design cues include Soul Red accents on the rear spoiler and rear underskirt, while the bespoke look can be further heightened with optional £300

Dark Gunmetal 15" alloy wheels. Inside, the red theme continues with red cloth seat trim, red knee pad inserts and red door trim inserts, while a red and white décor panel on the dash adds a large sweep of colour across the dash. In dealerships from September 1 and limited to just 400 cars, the Red Edition's small volumes make it an exclusive supermini choice that stands out from the crowd.

However, based on the 90ps SE-L Nav, the Red Edition shares the same core values of driving fun, sharp looks, quality, safety and affordability found across the entire Mazda2 range. Featuring the signature wing front grille and predatory headlamp styling which instantly identify it as a Mazda, the Mazda2 supermini features advanced chassis architecture, while its dynamic,

muscular, cab-rearward proportions incorporate a long wheelbase with small overhangs to maximise interior space.

On-board, front shoulder and rear knee room is complemented by excellent seat comfort, while coherent instrumentation and switchgear is matched to class-leading ergonomics. The 7-inch touch-screen display combines with Mazda's rotary Multimedia Commander to create an enhanced human-machine interface (HMI) offering extremely safe, intuitive interactivity and infotainment control.

Powered by the efficient 90ps SKYACTIV-G petrol engine, the Red Edition offers customers the ideal balance of lively, agile performance and highly-competitive fuel economy, plus with CO2 emissions of just 105g/km low-running costs are a given.

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Oswestry's Jordan Jones (left, No 554) moves up the inside to challenge for the lead



Telford racer Darren Warrender leads the way as he approaches a turn

Jones masters mud



The race for glory is on as competitors in the Juniors MX2 category speed across the mud at Newport's Long Land circuit. ■ Pictures: Geoff Griffiths

ALMOST 150 riders from the Midlands and north braved the mud in Oswestry Motocross Club's latest event at Long Lane in Newport.

Run by secretary Christine Lewis, the club, which has been running events for 32 years through the Amateur Motorcycle Association, has 28 members and their latest race attracted 149 riders split into eight blocks of three races.

Oswestry's Gary Jones, who is currently lying fifth in the AMCA Vets Championships, won all three races in the vets over-40s category, where riders complete 14 minutes plus one lap.

Jones pipped clubmate Garry J Williams – who is also an AMCA Vets Championship rider, lying sixth – into second, and John Heath (Tormarton), another vets championships rider into third in each one.

Jones has been competing for Wales with Williams for 15 years and he was relieved to beat his club-mate.

MOTO-CROSS by Tim Nash

"I was expecting tough competition from Garry and that's the way it proved to be," said Jones. "In the first race he had problems with his back brake, so the gap was bigger than it should have been."

"In the second he fell off and went back to ninth at one point, so it was well done on his part to come back to second because I thought he's retired with a puncture – it was only when a marshal signalled he was coming behind that I knew he was there."

"In the last race it was close for three quarters of the race – I don't know if he got a bit tired over the last couple of laps but up until then he was within a couple of seconds."

"It's usually me in front of him or him in front of me so he'll be out for revenge."

A Newport one-two combined in the MX1 seniors class, which is competed over 12 minutes plus one lap, with Adam Mobs winning the first race ahead of team-mate Kurt Ow-

en-Talbot, who then won the other two races.

In the first two races, Matthew Bell (Potteries) was third, while Joshua Fraser was second in the second and third races and Adam Knight (Mold) took third in the final event.

Corey Flynn was the only other rider with Jones to win all three of his races when he clinched the inter juniors – run over 10 minutes plus one lap – on a one-day licence.

Flynn beat Finlay James (Oswestry) into second place in the first race and third in the second and final one, Harvey Tillotson (Brymbo) completed the top three on each occasion.

Andy Marchant from Worfield – ranked third in the AMCA Championship – won the final MX1 experts class race over 14 minutes plus one lap after finishing runner-up in the first two to Luke Meredith (Macclesfield), who is ninth in the AMCA MX1 Championships.

Another AMCA Championship rider, Aaron Stone (Wolverhampton), recorded two thirds and a second place, while team-mate Daren Llewellyn was third in the last race.

Rian Warren (Telford) claimed two second places and a third in the MX2 experts over 12 minutes plus one lap, in which Craig Robinson (Macclesfield) won the first two, while Ben Bird on a one-day licence was third in the first and final outings.

Robinson pipped Jake Marsh (Cannock) in the second, while Kyle Myatt-Ibbs (North Staffs) claimed the final race.

In the first two races in the MX2 seniors, which is run over 12 minutes and one lap, Ryan Carey (Kinver) beat James Ellis (Chester) into second in front of Nick Llewellyn (Wolverhampton). Carey finished second in the last one when he was beaten by Shea Ryan, with Ellis third in the final one.

In the MX1 juniors, which is 10 minutes plus one lap, Kane Billingham (Wolverhampton) gained a third and two second places in a class dominated by Tom Tilston's (Wirral) hat-trick of wins, pipping Matthew Eaton (Potteries) into a second and two third-placed finishes.

The MX2 juniors – 10 minutes plus one lap –

saw Clayton Everill (Potteries) finish first, second and third, Jordan Shaw (Burntwood) won the last two and Samuel Young (Mid Cheshire) was second first and third, while Thomas Higgins (Chester) was third in the first two events.

Overall results

MX1 experts: 1 Andy Marchant 144 points; 2 Aaron Stone 137; 3 Daren Llewellyn 127. **MX2 seniors:** 1 Ryan Carey 147; 2 Shea Ryan 136; 3 Nick Llewellyn 131. **Vets over-40s:** 1 Gary Jones 150; 2 Garry J Williams 141; 3 John Heath 135. **MX1 Juniors:** 1 Tom Tilston 150; 2 Kane Billingham 139; 3 Matthew Eaton 137. **MX2 experts:** 1 Rian Warren 139; 2 Ben Bird 133; 3 290 Fabio Rizzi 127 (Mold Club). **MX1 seniors:** 1 Kurt Owen-Talbot 147; 2 Joshua Fraser 133; 3 Matthew Bird 131. **MX2 Juniors:** 1 Clayton Everill 142; 2 Samuel Young 137; 3 Thomas Higgins 133. **Inter Juniors:** 1 Corey Flynn 150; 2 Harvey Tillotson 139; 3 Finlay James 137.

■ Oswestry Motocross Club's next event is at Shawbury on August 28.

Guilsfield boosted by draw with New Saints

GUILSFIELD gave themselves a timely boost ahead of the new Huws Gray Cymru Alliance campaign after drawing 1-1 in their final pre-season encounter with Welsh Premier champions The New Saints at Park Hall.

Producing a resilient and disciplined display, Danny Barton's side had led against the full-timers through new signing Louis Irvine, only to be pegged back by an Alex Darlington's leveller 10 minutes from time.

Starved of possession in the first half, the Guils had to defend solidly, while they were also helped by some good goalkeeping and some wayward shooting.

Having been on the back foot, they took an unlikely lead against the run of play as former Ellesmere Rangers forward Irvine unleashed a 25-yard effort that flew into the net.

After the break, Guilsfield enjoyed more of the ball as TNS rang the changes but we were unable to hold out for a victory as Darlington popped up to finish after the visitors failed to clear their lines.

Boss Dan Barton was naturally delighted with the showing, saying: "It was a fantastic effort. We now need to apply that discipline and work rate to league."

■ Guilsfield reserves face a trip to Berriew reserves in the first round of the Montgomeryshire Amateur League Cup while they face Kerry reserves in the early stages of the Village Cup.

Meanwhile, the Montgomeryshire Cup has Guilsfield facing Newtown Wanderers in the first round, with the winners playing MORDA UNITED in round two.

Town up and running with win on road

NEW boys FC Oswestry Town made the perfect start to life in the Hall-mark North West Counties League with a terrific 3-1 victory away to Ashton Town in their first outing.

Ricky Litchfield (25) gave Town an interval lead, and despite a reply from John Holmes five minutes after the break, Dan Stevens' side hit back to take the spoils through Brendon Price (52) and skipper Jack Harris (83).

Town look to take the good work into Saturday when they tackle AFC Blackpool in the first home outing in the league at Park Hall (3pm).

n Zak Ward fired a hat-trick as FC Oswestry Town reserves completed their pre-season with a 4-1 beating of Maesyrhandir.

With Town ringing the changes in the second period, Montgomeryshire League outfit Maesyrhandir pulled a goal back. However, the hosts had the last word through player boss Stephen Drury to put them in good heart for Saturday's Mercian Regional League opener at St Georges.

Player-short Waterloo pull out of league

WATERLOO Rovers have become the third club to withdraw from the Spar Mid Wales League this season after struggling for players.

"Sad to say that after an emergency committee meeting it is with regret the club have made the decision to withdraw from the Spar mid Wales league with immediate effect," said secretary Dave Proctor in a statement.

"We have lost a number of players during the summer and have been unable to replace them.

"I would like to thank everyone in the league for all your help and support over the years and apologise for any inconvenience this will cause."

Waterloo are the third club that the Spar League has lost since its AGM in June, following the departures of Forden United and Bettws.

Hat-trick of wins for Ceiriog Valley



Finalists united – Winning team for the third successive year, Ceiriog Valley, and (right) runners-up Llangollen with Andrew Pearce of host club Chirk AAA holding the Oswestry Doubles trophy

REIGNING champions Ceiriog Valley have done it again in the Oswestry League's Doubles KO.

They won the competition for the third year in a row by beating Llangollen by just six shots – 74-68 – in the final at Chirk AAA.

The four doubles games were shared but a single figure win for Endaf Owens and Lee Jones was just one key factor for the Valley on the night.

"Although the 21-6 card for Endaf and Lee was the deciding factor in the final outcome, equally as important was block three," said league comps chief Trevor Roberts.

"Ryan Bond and Malcolm Johnson of Llangollen were 19-11 up and lying game until John Jones' last wood caught the jack to give them a big four and the momentum to go on and win the game."

Full scores – Llangollen 68 Ceiriog Valley A 74
Terry Heston & Adrian Edwards 6 Endaf Owens & Lee Jones 21; Dave Bond & Dave Edwards 21 Megis Phillips & Steve Potter 15; Ryan Bond & Malcolm Johnson 20 Ben Moody & John Jones 21; Carl Mattox & Mike Callaghan 21 Craig Davies & Lee Jones 17.

Four-star Matthews leads Llan to victory

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

LAST season's star striker Iwan Matthews carried on from where he left off with four of the goals as Llanrhaeadr swept aside Carno 6-2 in the opening action of the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

Matthews was the league's leading scorer last term, and was again in the heart of the action as Llan sounded an early warning to their rivals, Tom Evans also scoring twice.

They lost three times to Carno last term, but put the record straight in their first league outing in the sunshine, taking the lead in the 19th minute when Evans found the net after linking up with Matthews.

A strong run on the left saw Matthews double the advantage six minutes later, the striker then hit the post before Carno pulled one back on the half hour when Llan's new defender Glenn Evans diverted a cross into his own net.

Although the visitors were level midway through the second half, Llanrhaeadr produced a storming finish to net four more times without reply to run out convincing winners.

First, Tom Evans restored the lead when he headed in a corner moments later and Matthews then turned his marker to fire in his second to make it 4-2. The forward then extended the margin when completing his hat-trick from the penalty spot 10 minutes from time after Kieran Evans had been fouled in the box.

Matthews then rounded off the scoring with his fourth of the game in the dying moments as Llan showed they mean business this season.

BERRIEW, newly promoted this term, also made a pleasing start as they returned from Bow Street 3-2 victors courtesy of a brace from Karl Selaerts and one from Matt Mumford, a new signing from Kerry.

Relegated from the Cymru Alliance, Rhayader Town signalled their intentions of a quick return with a 5-0 thrashing of Machynlleth in their opening fixture while, in the other division one action, Aberaeron beat Tywyn Bryncrug 1-0.

In division two, Llansantffraid Village suffered a 2-1 loss at Kerry in their first game back, Churchstoke drew 3-3 at home to Abermule and Dolgellau were 2-0 winners against Presteigne.

Llanymynech clinch title on 18th



The Llanymynech golfers who won the Junior League final at The Shropshire

LLANYMYNECH Golf Club clinched the Shropshire and Herefordshire Junior League title in dramatic fashion – claiming victory on the very last hole.

With the final against Shifnal tied at 2-2, Llanymynech's Joe Roberts held his nerve after heading to the 18th hole one up in the final pairing at The Shropshire Golf Club, to close out his club's second victory in the tournament in the last three years.

Llanymynech, who also finished runners-up to Horseyay Village last year, will now represent the county in next week's national finals.

"This was just a really superb effort from our players," said

Nick Clewlow, the club's junior organiser. "We have had a really good run in the competition over the last few years and it was really good to do well again."

"One of the most pleasing aspects about it all is that most of the players who won this year's event were part of our success in 2014. They have done really well."

The Llanymynech sextet of Roberts, Will Owen, Adam Clewlow, James Clewlow, Tom Weetman and Libby Weetman were among four teams who arrived at finals day hoping to lift the trophy. A total of 20 sides from around the county had originally entered the competition, where

matches consisted of five singles, before being whittled down over the course of the summer.

The semi-finals, at least, proved a little one-sided, with Llanymynech seeing off Hawkstone Park 4-1, before Shifnal got the better of Burghill Valley by the same scoreline. The third-placed play-off, however, gave a taste of what was to come, with Burghill Valley eventually edging home with a 3-2 win.

Further drama followed in the final as Llanymynech and Shifnal could not be separated until the very end, when Roberts saw his team home.

Llanymynech now head to Frilford Heath in Oxfordshire

Lion's main men dish out real mauling

BOWLS by John Bridgwater

points off the promotion places, with five games left.

Meanwhile, the race for the leading positions is hotting up in division four with **LLANYMYNECH B** boosting their promotion cause with a resounding 8-2 (159-110) home win against one of their chief rivals, **WESTON RHYN C**.

Eaton Williams led the way with a 21-7 success, while Rob Edwards and Basil Kirkham also produced fine cards, to eight and nine respectively. Norman Boulton (21-14) replied for fourth placed Rhyn. Despite the win, Llany are 13 points off the top spot.

James Candlin maintained his rich vein of form, but it was close as he edged home 21-20 to chalk up his 14th win 15 outings to stay among the average leaders.

CHURCH C, in third, are hard on the heels of Llanymynech after their 8-2 beating of visiting Cynwyd B, taking the aggregate by 50 shots (157-98).

Steve Turner led the way with a 21-4 win, while Glyn Edwards and Peter Adams were also single fig-

ure winners, both to six.

In division five, IFTON moved a step closer to back-to-back promotions following their 9-1 (165-100) victory away to Corwen B.

Ian Metcalfe was the best winner of the night, storming to a 21-3 victory as the St Martins side stayed 22 points clear of second placed **LLANRHAEDR D** who were also 9-1 (167-105) winners at home to Ye Olde Crofte B.

Dave Jones (21-4) and Oliver Jones (21-7) also notched emphatic victories for league leaders IFTON.

Results

Division two: Crifftins C 6 (153) Flexsys A 4 (132).
Division three: Ellesmere A 3 (137) Plas Kynaston A 7 (150), Llangollen B 8 (140) Fox Lane 2 (98), Chirk B 6 (145) George 4 (138), Johnston C 9 (166) Ruabon B 1 (118), Black Lion 9 (182) Ceirig Valley B 1 (107).

Division four: Plas Kynaston B 6 (141) Llanrhaeadr B 4 (137), Llanymynech B 8 (159) Weston Rhyn C 2 (110), Church 8 (157) Cynwyd B 2 (98), Ceirig Valley C 7 (159) Llangynog C 3 (112), Llanrhaeadr C 7 (156) Johnston E 3 (124), Llanyllin A 10 (168) Overton B 0 (108).

Division five: Chirk C 7 (155) Whittington C 3 (131), Church D 6 (142) Weston Rhyn B 4 (127), Corwen B 1 (100) Ifton 9 (165), Whittington D 3 (114) Crifftins D 7 (148), Llanrhaeadr D 9 (167) Ye Olde Crofte B 1 (105).

Division six: Crifftins E 9 (155) Llanymynech C 1 (81), Llanyllin B

Leaders in vital win as title race hotting up

LEADERS Llanrhaeadr A kept themselves ahead in the race for the Oswestry and District Bowling League division two title with a 6-4 (147-137) home victory over close rivals Llanymynech.

Both sides have been going well this season, and both would have been happy enough with the final outcome in a closely fought affair.

The result kept Llanrhaeadr six points clear at the top while Llany, in third, are still very much in the promotion hunt, just two points off second placed Cynwyd A.

Mark Evans (21-9) was the biggest winner for the hosts, Emyr Roberts also prevailing to 10, while Dougie Briscoe (21-11) was the best of the replies.

Second placed Cynwyd A went down 6-4 (147-120) at **ELLES-MERE B** who consolidated their top five place with Doug McCoy and John Harrison winning to six and seven respectively.

CHURCH B are flirting with basement danger after their 8-2 (158-119) loss at **CRIFTINS B**, Glynys Jones (21-14) and Bill Lewis (21-18) their winners.

WHITTINGTON B succumbed 7-3 (150-129) at Llangynog A, while Flexsys A swamped Bersham 9-1 (163-115).

In division one, **CHURCH A** kept alive their chances of survival with a 7-3 (142-129) home win against Johnston A, Neil Williams the stand-out performer with a 21-5 success.

Despite the victory, Church are still six points adrift of safety, although they are also six points clear of basement side **WESTON RHYN** who slipped deeper into trouble following their 8-2 (10 shots 150-140) loss at home to relegation rivals Corwen A.

It was a disappointing night for Rhyn who really needed to win, Nathan Lewis and Derek Taylor their two winners, both to 12.

At the other end of the table, third placed **WHITTINGTON A** kept themselves in the title mix after overcoming **CRIFTINS A** 7-3 (139-122), Julian Turner (21-3) leading the charge, Andrew Jones (21-7) responding.

Despite the win, they are now six points off leaders Ceiriog Valley A who maintained their grip at the top with an 8-2 (160-112) home verdict over Ruabon A.

Chirk A are also looking in good shape in second spot after seeing off visitors Overton A 8-2 (154-123), while Johnston B notched an 8-2 win over Llangollen A.

On-a-roll Ifton maintain their promising run

A **STRONG** all round display saw Ifton consolidate their position among the leading pack in the Flow-fit Shropshire Premier League with an 11-3 beating of lowly visitors Bylet.

The St Martins side took the match by the scruff of the net to emerge convincing winners by 73 shots, Dave Bond the most valuable player with a 21-3 success against Andy Jones.

That proved the biggest win of the night along with David Rocky Jones who also won by three against Kevin Brazier, their efforts helping to leave Ifton well placed in fifth spot.

They now head to Castlefields for a big encounter on Friday night, with the Shrewsbury hosts lying just one place and one point them above in the table.

Leighton Roberts (21-7) also weighed in with a good single figure victory as Ifton dominated against struggling Bylet, and could have emerged even more emphatic winners had Ian Metcalfe and Jordan Riley not been edged out to 20 and 19 respectively.

Darren Lacey won 21-12 and Martin Jones 21-13, while Mike Riley and Keirion Roberts both prevailed to 16.

The two other winners were Craig Griffiths (21-17) and Nicky Jones, who had a closely fought 21-19 encounter against Bylet's top player of the night, Brian Walters.

Guils fall well short in defeat to rivals

A CRUSHING defeat against one of their chief rivals has dented Guilsfield's promotion push in the Henshalls Shropshire Cricket League division four.

The villagers had started the day in third spot, but lost ground as they slumped by 131 runs away to Overton who boosted their own challenge in the process.

Put in to bat, the home side prospered to the tune of 240-8 in 45 overs, Matthew Lawrenson doing the damage with a terrific 139 and Paul England hitting 60 as the bowlers were put to the sword.

Jordan Evans managed a couple of late wickets in one over, but there was not much else to cheer.

Guilsfield never recovered from a poor start as they were then sent back for a disappointing 109 in reply, Scott Lawrenson taking 4-30.

They picked up just four points to slip into fifth spot, while Overton are now eight points clear in second place.

Losing draw

MONTGOMERY II, looking to cement their place in the upper reaches of the reserve division two, were involved in a closely fought losing draw at home to their Forton counterparts.

After being put in, Forton posted 196-6 in their 45 overs, Ben Donald top scoring with 38 while Keith Griffiths took 3-39 and Stan Davies 2-15.

Monty were soon in trouble in reply, but Davies showed his all round worth with 70 to hold the innings together along with 40 from Alex Bromley to help their side close on 190-7, agonisingly short of their victory target. They picked up 11 points, and Forton 13.

WELSHPOOL II coasted to an eight wicket win over lowly Llanidloes II to consolidate their

Davies' six appeal can't save Knockin

DESPITE a six wicket haul from Shaun Davis, Knockin & Kinnerley lost ground on the Henshalls Shropshire League division one leaders after slumping to a 66-run loss at high flying Market Drayton.

Electing to bat first, Drayton were held in check as they reached 184-9 in 50 overs, Davis proving a handful as he picked up 6-26 off 15 overs, while there were two wickets for Marcus Williams (2-30).

Knockin, who started the day in third place, made a bright start in reply, but lost five wickets for 15 runs to be dismissed for a disappointing 118 in the 33rd over.

Steven Gray made 25 at the top of the order, Jean-Pierre Erasmus 22 at four, before a late 20 not out from Davis took the final score past three figures. Knockin returned with just five points.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY II were left to settle for a draw after visitors Sentinel II had rattled up an imposing 260-3 in their reserve division one clash at the Nursery Ground.

In reply, Knockin comfortably held out by finishing on 145-5 in their 45 overs, but picked up just two points to the 17 claimed by their visitors. Bluet Thomas top scored with 36 at the top of the order.

FRANKTON succumbed by six wickets away to Quatt in the Shropshire League premier division as their fluctuating campaign continued.

Dismissed for 175, in which Jacob Northwood and Alex Owen top scored with 47 and 44 respectively, they were unable to stop their south Shropshire hosts from reaching their target.

Northwood added a couple of wickets to his earlier exploits with the bat, but Frankton returned with just five points.

Monty close in on title after thrilling tie

LEADERS Montgomery can move a step closer to the Henshalls Shropshire Cricket League division two crown in Saturday's showdown with second placed Prees.

Victory would put them in a virtually unassailable position, having stayed 69 points clear at the top following last weekend's thrilling tie at Powys rivals Welshpool.

In a remarkable encounter, Monty posted 175-7 in 45 overs after being put in to bat at Maesydyre, before Pool matched that score for the loss of eight wickets in a tense finish.

The league leaders picked up 13 points from the game of the season and Pool - who are now third,

nine points off the promotion places - claimed 12 points.

This weekend, Welshpool now entertain Cae Glas, who themselves are fighting to escape basement danger, while Ellesmere host Willey.

In division four, Guilsfield take on visitors Bridgnorth III as they bid to rekindle their promotion hopes after last weekend's loss to Overton.

Cae Glas held on for a losing draw against Ellesmere in division two - despite coming up against a fine batting display from Ashley Thomas.

Thomas smashed 109 as Ellesmere broke the shackles to make 197 all out after being put in to bat, before the Glas finished on 142-8. Despite their

efforts, they remain at the foot of the table.

In ideal conditions at Gatacre, they won a rare toss and inserted their opponents into to bat first - and the decision quickly paid dividends as the visitors lost three wickets with less than 30 runs on the board. However, hopes of more inroads were dashed as Thomas came to the crease at No5 and compiled a well struck 109 that ensured a competitive score of 197 all out was posted.

Cae Glas posted a respectable score at the end of 142-8 to ensure a draw.

ELLESMERE II had comfortably the better of a drawn game against basement side **CAE GLAS II** in the reserve division two to secure a 17-4 points split.

Oswestry edged out in last-over thriller

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

OSWESTRY missed another golden chance of taking maximum points in the Birmingham Cricket League division two after losing a real thriller off the fifth ball of the last over at Wombourne.

The Morda Road side had their chances, but were left to reflect on what might have been as their rivals successfully chased down a target of 259 with one delivery remaining.

It was a close call, one of several this season, but Oswestry gave their hosts a glimmer of hope after failing to build on a fine start when batting first.

Another fine century by Warrick Fynn and 77 by Junaid Cassiem put the visitors in a strong position as they shared an opening stand of 139.

Robbie Clarke came in once Cassiem was dismissed, and continued his run of good form as the score passed 200.

With 10 overs to go, Oswestry were hand-somely placed on 210-1 - and a score well in excess of 300 looked on the cards.

But when Fynn was dismissed for exactly 100 and Clarke for 35, the innings fell apart and their final score was a disappointing 258-9 off 55 overs.

David Hemming (4-55) and Kuldeep Dirwman (4-58) were the most successful home bowlers.

Oswestry then dropped both openers Waqas Ahmed and Greg Clark before they had reached double figures, and they went on to score 61 and 47 respectively before falling to Charlie Morris.

Three wickets

Fynn also picked up three wickets and Oswestry seemed on course for a least a winning draw until Dirwman came in and blasted 38 off just 22 balls.

Ben Hudson, who had survived a confident appeal for run out a couple of overs earlier, then struck the penultimate ball of the match for four to win the game.

OSWESTRY II, who now find themselves in a relegation battle in the 2nd XI division one, played out a losing draw against Walsall II in another excellent game at Morda Road.

Walsall were bowled out for 227, with Sam Davies taking three wickets in a fine spell of off-break bowling.

Nick Williams then hit 51 and Josh Coleridge 43 as Oswestry made a brave effort to get the runs before finishing on 189-9 to take eight points from the game.

A maiden century by Domuic Kular was the highlight of **OSWESTRY III**'s seven-wicket defeat against Wellington IV at Morda Road in the Shropshire League Sunday division one.

Kuala made an unbeaten 103 and shared a century stand with Owen Aspinall (52) as Oswestry reached 195-3 in their 40 overs.

But Wellington batted solidly in reply, and took the spoils by making a competent 196-3.

OSWESTRY IV were the club's only winners at the weekend, coming back from Wellington VI with a five-wicket success in the Sunday division two.

Wellington made 171-6, and Oswestry replied with 174-5 thanks largely to 56 by Jack Roberts and 38n not out by Ivor Pearsall.

■ Oswestry are back at Morda Road on Saturday when they take on Stratford-upon-Avon (midday) while the seconds travel to Shrewsbury II in a local derby (12.30pm).

The thirds visit Bomere Heath Thirds on Sunday, when the fourths play their Bridgnorth counterparts at Morda Road (both starting at 1.30pm).

Townend riding high for win



Oliver Townend, riding Cillnabradden Evo to victory at the British Open Championship

ELLESMERE'S Oliver Townend became the first Brit to top the Event Rider Masters podium when scooping the first prize of £16,000 at the Festival of British Eventing.

The competition, presented by BETA and held at Gatcombe Park, featured as leg four of the inaugural Event Rider Masters series.

Riding Cillnabradden Evo, Townend led the way with a score of 49.5, with France's Tom Carlile second on a score of 55.8, riding the eight-year-old stallion Upsilon.

Ireland's Elizabeth Power stormed up the leaderboard from 17th to secure third place with 56.5 after performing the fastest cross-country of the day on board Soladoun.

Following the withdrawal of the overnight dressage leader

Andrew Hoy and Cheeky Kalimbo after a costly showjumping round, Townend was left in pole position going out on the cross-country after he jumped clear in the showjumping.

He and Cillnabradden Evo completed the unique Gatcombe track with no jumping faults, adding 10.4 time penalties to their dressage to secure first place on a final score of 49.5.

Last fence

It was an extraordinary win for Oliver and Cillnabradden Evo as 12 months earlier the horse had a fall at the last fence at Gatcombe, which left his rider, Andrew Nicolson, with a severely broken neck.

However, both the horse and Nicolson have demonstrated their ability to bounce back by winning legs of ERM albeit with different

partners.

Nicolson won leg three at Barbury last month riding Nereo, followed by Cillnabradden Evo's success last weekend with Townend on board.

Townend, who stables are based in Ellesmere, said: "We hope to aim Cillnabradden Evo at the remaining ERM competitions this year, as on his day he is a very competitive horse, which he has just proven. He was very good today and I feel built for this sort of class, I am delighted for him.

"Gatcombe is a special place. I've been coming here since I was eight years old and I love it. It's been a lucky event for me as I think it's my eighth championship win here.

"The prize money is pretty good to - I need to make a living and the £16,000 today certainly helps!"

Weekend's Shropshire Cricket Lge fixture list

Saturday

Premier Division

Albrighton v St Georges; Bomere Heath v Quatt; Broseley v Madeley; Forton v Sentinel; Frankton v Ludlow & South Shropshire; Wern v Shelton.

Division 1

Alberbury v Market Drayton; Cound v Allscott; Knockin & Kinnerley v Newtown; Wellington v Condover; Wroxeter Grove v Beacon; Lilleshall v Pontesbury.

Division 2

Bishop's Castle v Shrewsbury; Ellesmere v Willey; Montgomery v Prees; Tibberton v Iscody & Fenns Bank; Welshpool v Cae Glas; Wheaton Aston v Church Stretton.

Division 3

Church Aston v Trysull & Seisdon; Harcourt v Hodnet & Poplew; Harpers v Calverhall; Llanidloes v Shifnal; Ludlow & South Shropshire v Chelmarsh; Much Wenlock v Convedale.

Division 4

Allscott v Acton Reynald; Beacon v Quay-side; Cotton Hall v Overton-on-Dee; Guilsfield v Bridgnorth; Quatt v Hinstock; Wroxeter Grove v St Georges.

Reserve Division 1

Beacon v Wern; Ludlow & South Shropshire v Frankton; Madeley v Knockin & Kinnerley; Quatt v Cound; Sentinel v Alberbury; St Georges v Wellington.

Reserve Division 2

Cae Glas v Forton; Condover v Montgomery; Iscody & Fenns Bank v Bomere Heath; Pontesbury v Lilleshall; Shelton v Wroxeter Grove; Willey v Ellesmere.

Reserve Division 3

Acton Reynald v Llanidloes; Allscott v Broseley; Convedale v Whittington; Market Drayton v Lilleshall; Newtown v Welshpool; Shifnal v Albrighton; Shrewsbury v Bishop's Castle; St Georges v Much Wenlock.

Sunday

Division 1

Alberbury v Cound; Bomere Heath v Oswestry; Frankton v Wern; Knockin & Kinnerley v Sentinel; Newport v Worfield; Pontesbury v Wellington.

Division 2

Lilleshall v Whitchurch; Ludlow & South Shropshire v Knockin & Kinnerley; Madeley v Market Drayton; Oswestry v Bridgnorth; Wellington v Madeley.

Another new record time in Paragon Trial

FOR the second consecutive week, the Oswestry Paragon time trial series witnessed a new course record on the Queens Head-Gobowen course.

Round 12 of the series saw 31 riders take to the start line and it was Josh Williams, of Team Bovril, who came home with the fastest time when racing around in 20 minutes 21 seconds, seven seconds quicker than Kirk Vickers' record set a just a week earlier.

Williams' impressive ride put him over two minutes ahead of second placed Stuart Proctor of Paramount CRT (22.31), with Andrew Campbell of Wrecsam Tri finishing third in 22.48.

Colin Elgie, of Oswestry Peloton, finished in 23.04 for fourth place, just edging out club mate Simon Lewis (23.14).

Neil Coles was sixth in 23.47 to again finish as fastest Paragon rider although seventh placed Tom Richardson was not far behind when stopping the clock on 23.58. Andrew Howell of Oswestry Peloton took eighth place in 24.03.

The next four places were filled by Paragon riders with Darrell Walsh quickest of the group in yet

Fletcher puts on the style for Welshpool win

FIVE handicapper Mark Fletcher was in record breaking form on his way to winning Welshpool's WR Davies Club Championship.

Fletcher carded a superb gross round of 67 to equal the Welshpool course record record to add to his round of 76 the previous day for a total of 143. Second was Gareth Williams, also playing off five, with 151 and Jon Gamble (4) was third, also on 151.

The Two Ts Trophy for the best nett score over two days was also won by Fletcher with a total score of 133. Second on countback, was Alun Evans (14) with 138, from Steven Lloyd (19) also with 138.



Guils seek some spark against Flint

GUILSFIELD will want to set an early marker they tackle Flint Town United at Clos Mytton in Saturday's Cymru Alliance curtain-raiser.

After a creditable pre-season - which included a 1-1 draw at TNS last week - the Guils can take plenty of confidence ahead of their season opener.

But boss Dan Barton knows his side have to improve their fortunes on home surrounds if they are to emerge serious challengers.

They finished fourth last term, but that could have been so much better had they not dropped so many points on their own soil.

"We had the best away record in the league last season, but our home form was poor," admitted Barton.

"This is an area we need to improve. Had our performances at home been anything like last season, then we would have won the league."

Barton is happy with his squad that ended their preparations with a 1-1 draw against TNS at Park Hall, new signing Louis Irvine getting the only goal, he scored 30 goals last season at Ellesmere Rangers.

As well as the arrival of Irvine, ex Cefn Druids and Newtown defender Robbie James has returned to the club, and Porthmadog midfielder Stuart Rogers is another new arrival.

Llanfair United, who escaped relegation from the Cymru Alliance by the skin of their teeth, will want to avoid any such dramas this time around.

They are also at home when they launch their campaign against Denbigh Town on Saturday, and hope the experience gained from last term will prove invaluable.

They have moved to bolster their squad by securing three new signings - midfielders Dan Kenyon, Nyasha Mwamuka and forward Dashawn Blake.

However, boss Rhys Stephens faces the prospect of being without at least seven of his first team squad for the opening day.

"For me, the season has started too early," he said. "Like a lot of teams, we were playing up to May 30, and the players needed more of a break."

"We've got seven players out, it could be more come the weekend, but we have just got to deal with it."

Pool face Drayton in friendly at Maesydre

WELSHPOOL'S rugby players welcome Market Drayton to Maesydre for the first time in over 25 years for a pre-season encounter on Saturday.

The last meeting between the sides took place on March 2, 1991, and proved a controversial affair when Drayton refused to carry on in protest after their No8 was sent off for stamping.

Pool are preparing for another season in the Swalec Welsh League division three (north) next month, while Drayton currently play in the Midlands Division 5 West (North) League.

Pool, who dusted off the cobwebs with a 12-7 win over Bishop's Castle in their opening friendly last weekend, will complete their pre-season schedule with a trip to Whitchurch II on August 27.

SAINTS CHASE LATE SIGNINGS

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

MANAGER Craig Harrison is chasing a couple of late additions to his squad as The New Saints prepare to get their Dafabet Welsh Premier defence under way at home to Aberystwyth Town on Sunday (3pm).

With the transfer window closing on August 31, Harrison is busy in his pursuit of bringing in a couple of targets, and hopes there could be a new face in time for the weekend.

The departure of experienced strikers Mike Wilde and Matty Williams is likely to open the door for another forward arriving at Park Hall, although the defending champions still have plenty of options up front.

"It's a busy time until the transfer window closes, and I will be looking to bring in at least one new signing, possibly two, ahead of the new season, possibly this week," said Harrison.

"I am happy with the squad we've got, but you've always got to look to strengthen if the right player comes along."

"Michael and Matty have been immense for the club over the years, but we have to move on now and it now gives other players an opportunity to shine."

"We've still got more than enough options, with Greg (Draper), Scott (Quigley) and Alex Darlington, and Ryan Brobbel can also play there, so we've got four players competing for two positions."

The Saints go into the season as firm favourites with the bookies to land a sixth successive crown, but Harrison feels the race could be one of the closest for many seasons with several rivals having strengthened during the summer.

TNS won the title by seven points last season, and before that their winning margins have been 18, 14, 22 and five points.

"I think it will be closer than the bookies think, it is getting closer every year," said Harrison.

"If we win by one point then I will be happy, the main thing is we win the league. That is what every team wants to do, and that is our aim again, and I have 100 per cent belief in ourselves."

All clubs in the Welsh Premier will be playing more games on Sunday afternoons this season in a bid to increase attendances, but Harrison is not convinced.

"I can't see it myself, but if it does benefit the league, then I will go along with it," he said. "For me the ideal time to have played these games is Friday nights."

Late goal sentenced The New Saints to a narrow 2-1 defeat to a strong Leicester City side in a behind closed doors friendly.

In an encounter between the current Welsh and English champions, the Saints started well, Ryan Brobbel hitting the post only to fall behind after the interval through Kairo Mitchell.

Craig Harrison's side soon levelled when winger Adrian Cieslewicz crashed his shot into top corner from just inside the box, but Leicester had the last word through Adi Muskwie.

Atherton stays on top of world



Champagne moment – Rachel Atherton after her title-clinching World Cup win in Canada and (below) in action during her 12th consecutive victory



HIGH-RIDING Rachel Atherton stands on top of the world after continuing her amazing form with her 12th successive UCI Downhill Mountain Bike World Cup victory in Canada.

That win, the 32nd of her World Cup career, saw the Llanrhaeadr ace retain her place as women's elite world champion for a fifth time, and kept her on course to become the most decorated female rider in the sport.

The 28-year-old's remarkable winning run goes back to June 2015, and she never looked likely to relinquish her grip in the latest event with another storming performance.

To underline her dominance, Atherton wrapped up the overall title with one round re-

maining after turning on the style on one of the toughest courses around at Mont St Anne, Canada. In hot, dry and dusty conditions, the British National champion produced a scorching run to finish over 11 seconds clear.

Atherton clocked 4:37.448, with Australian Tracey Hannah second and fellow Brit Tahnee Seagrave third.

The men's race was won by Danny Hart (3:59.754), with Rachel's brother, Gee, seven and a half seconds back in 11th spot.

There was another celebration as Atherton's Trek Factory Racing team took the team of the day prize, and also kept the lead in the race for the overall team honour.

Oswestry's cricketers to hit back

OSWESTRY'S cricketers look to shake off another narrow miss when they entertain Stratford-Upon-Avon in the Birmingham Cricket League division two on Saturday (noon).

The Morda Road side came close to victory last weekend before being edged out by Wombourne who scored the winning boundary off the penultimate ball of the game.

It was a game they could have won, one of many this season, which now looks to have put paid to making any realistic challenge in the division.

After picking up seven points, Oswestry remain eighth in the table, two places and 10 points above Stratford who arrive in good heart after their seven run win over title chasing Shifnal last weekend.

Batsmen Joe Carrasco and Alun Morris both return, Simon Corbett is also in, while Mark Robinson and Jonny Davies are unavailable, and opening bowler Dan Bowen is rated 50-50 with injury.

Oswestry were left to reflect on failing to capitalise on a terrific 139-run opening stand between Warrick Fynn (100) and Junaid Cassiem (77) last weekend as they finished on 258-9 off 55 overs.

Saints lift Graham Edwards Trophy

ST MARTINS Village lifted the annual Graham Edwards Trophy with a 2-1 extra time victory over Kinnerley in the final at Gobowen.

After falling behind to a fifth minute goal from Andrew Webb, the Saints levelled through Tom Freeman on 66 minutes before a deflected goal from a Freeman free kick clinched victory.

St Martins Village had reached the final with a penalty shoot-out win against TNS under-19s after their semi-final clash had finished 1-1.

In the other semi-final, goals from Chris Aitken and Owain Wilcock saw Kinnerley prevail 2-1 against FC Oswestry Town who had led through a Zak Ward penalty.

All games took place at Gobowen, with proceeds going to Leukaemia Research.

Meanwhile, Oswestry Boys and Girls Club are the Graham Edwards under-14 champions after defeating Dragons ADC Oswestry 1-0 in the final.

Spot-on Matthews nets Llan winner

A PENALTY from Iwan Matthews maintained Llanrhaeadr's winning start to the Spar Mid Wales League division one campaign with a hard-fought 1-0 victory at home to Montgomery.

Promoted Berriew suffered their first loss when going down 3-1 to Rhayader Town, Matt Mumford on target.

Llanfair United, meanwhile, ran out 3-1 winners in their final friendly at Llanidloes Town with goals from Nyasha Mwamuka, Paul Griffiths and Dan Kenyon.

After pulling out of the Spar Mid Wales League, Waterloo Rovers will be running two teams in the Montgomeryshire League this season.

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Published by the Oswestry Chronicle and printed by Shropshire Newspapers Limited, Ketter, Telford. Registered at the P.O. as a newspaper. Price when sold 60p

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